

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence  
**To:** [Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)  
**Subject:** U S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, September 18, 2017  
**Date:** Monday, September 18, 2017 7:04:37 AM

---

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

## Today's Table Of Contents

---

### DOI In The News

- Wall Street Journal: Trump Administration To Expand Hunting At National Monuments.
- Wall Street Journal: Interior Report Recommends Cuts Or Changes To Seven National Land Monuments.
- Washington Post: Trump Administration Working Toward Renewed Drilling In Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- New York Times: This Season, Western Wildfires Are Close By And Running Free.
- McClatchy: Diverse Foes Of Offshore Atlantic Drilling Hope To Halt Trump Plan.
- Washington Examiner: Hurricanes Present New Challenge To Trump's Fast-track Permit Plan.

- E&E Publishing: 'I'm Working In The ... Soviet Union.' Interior Staff Eyed For Leaks.
- The Hill: After Massive Giveaways To Industry, Mining Executives Will Spend Big At Trump's D.C. Hotel.
- U.S. News & World Report: Damaged Chalet In Montana Being Protected From Winter.
- U.S. News & World Report: Feds Announce \$62 Million For Navajo Water Pipeline.
- Wyoming Public Radio: Wyoming's Sage Grouse Team Meets To Discuss Federal Shake Up Of Their Plan.
- Deseret (UT) News: Op-ed: Non-producing Oil And Gas Leases Tie Up 1.7 Million Acres Of Land In Utah.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- Judge Nixes Challenge To Calif. Tribal Trust Land Decision.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Associated Press: Environmentalists Get Win In US Coal-climate Change Lawsuit.
- U.S. News & World Report: US Agent Out At BLM After Burning Man Probe.
- U.S. News & World Report: Lectures 'Bring Science And Nature' Into Prison.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Lawsuit Opposes Wild Horse Birth Control.

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- BOEM Invites Public To Offshore Wind Meeting In New York.

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- Delta Tunnels Opponents Target WaterFix Money.
- How The Elsinore Water District Plans To Deal With Future Water Shortages.
- Lake Mohave Lowered For Annual Razorback Sucker Harvest.
- Water Managers Seek Certainty In Colorado Basin.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- U.S. News & World Report: Minnesota Artist Wins Federal Duck Stamp Contest.
- Summit (CO) Daily: Anti-poaching Wildlife Effort Brings African Contingent To Denver.
- U.S. News & World Report: Endangered Mexican Wolf Killed Following Livestock Attacks.
- Arizona Republic: Arizona Jaguar Turns Out To Be Another Male.
- U.S. News & World Report: Activist Urges Walrus Rafts In Absence Of Arctic Sea Ice.
- Newsweek: How 230 Endangered Parrots Survived Hurricane Irma In Puerto Rico.
- Rio Grande Valley (TX) Morning Star: Refuge Proposes Reopening Bayside Drive To Traffic.
- Bemidji (MN) Pioneer: Grizzlies, Noble And Worthy Creatures, On The Comeback.

### **National Park Service**

- Washington Post: Weekend Of Juggalos, Trump Supporters, Counterprotesters Is Here. Get Ready For Street Closures And Police Presence.
- CBS: Trump, Pence Welcome Young Fan To White House To Mow Lawn.
- EcoWatch: New Bill Aims To Restore 'Common-Sense' Plastic Water Bottle Ban In National Parks.
- WTOP-FM Washington: Bill Introduced In Congress To Remove Robert E. Lee Statue From Antietam.
- Bloomberg News: Irma Stirs Fear Of Setback To \$16 Billion Everglades Restoration.
- Associated Press: Parts Of Blue Ridge Parkway Reopen Following Irma.
- Charleston (SC) Post and Courier: Fort Sumter Still Closed After Being Inundated With Water During Tropical Storm Irma.
- U.S. News & World Report: Lead Carver Of Mount Rushmore Honored With Plaque.
- Philly (PA): A Revolutionary Battlefield Is Saved In Chester County.
- WCBC-AM Cumberland (MD): Federal Grant Targeted At Western Maryland Battlefield.
- U.S. News & World Report: Stonemasons Go Old-School To Repair Colorado Monument Walls.
- Los Angeles Times: Lottery To Open For Hikers Who Want To Trek All 67 Miles Of Santa Monica Mountain's Backbone Trail.
- U.S. News & World Report: Conway Library Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- Washington Post: Additional Coverage: Park Service Tests Technique For Cleaning Microbes From Jefferson Memorial Dome.

### **Office Of Insular Affairs**

- USA Today: U.S. Rushes Hurricane Irma Aid To Caribbean Islands, But Not To Cuba.
- CBS: Hurricane Maria Moving Toward Caribbean.
- Miami Herald: National Hurricane Center Warns Maria Following Irma's Path Through Caribbean.
- NBC: US Prepares Militarily As North Korea Pledges "Military Equilibrium."

### **US Geological Survey**

- Washington Post: After Disaster Strikes, Science Often Benefits.
- U.S. News & World Report: Tribal Leaders Urge Yellowstone Park Name Changes.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Commentary: National Earthquake Program Is Vital To Utah.
- Additional Reading.

### **Top National News**

- Associated Press: As He Prepares To Address UN, Trump Dubs North Korea's Kim Jong-Un "Rocket Man."
- Washington Post: Media Analyses Consider How Trump's UN Debut Will Test His Agenda.
- New York Times: Trump Pledges US Support To UK After Terror Attack, Pushes For Expanding Travel Ban.
- ABC: Trump Warns Of "Effective And Overwhelming" Response To North Korean Threat.
- CNN: White House: Trump Supports Making Deal On DACA, Provided Border Security, Wall Are Included.
- Washington Times: Cassidy: "48 Or 49" Republicans Back Plan To Replace ACA With Block Grants.
- ABC: McMaster: Administration Considering A "Tougher" Travel Ban.
- CBS: Tillerson, McMaster Dispute Report On Paris Accord Exit, But Leave Room For Negotiation.
- Wall Street Journal: Advisory Panel Recommends FAA Eliminate More Than 50 Air Safety Rules.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Using The E.P.A. To Prop Up Big Coal."
  - "Squeeze Myanmar's Military."
- Washington Post.
  - "Trump Flirts With A New Age Of American Timidity."
  - "The Inexplicable Horror Of The Deaths Of Eight Elderly People In Florida."
  - "Turkey Still Hasn't Owned Up To A Vicious Assault On American Soil."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "The Second Circuit's Insider Trading Feud."
  - "California Democrats Target Tesla."
  - "Reining In Mr. Sessions."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

## **DOI In The News**

---

### **Trump Administration To Expand Hunting At National Monuments.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Carlton) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Friday signed an order to expand hunting, fishing, and target shooting at national monuments that previously had banned those activities. Zinke said, "The more people we can get outdoors, the better things will be for our public lands. ... Some of my best memories are hunting deer or reeling in rainbow trout back home in Montana, and I think every American should be able to have that experience."

[The Hill](#) (9/15, Manchester) reports that the order is "an extension of a previous order he signed aimed at restoring the 'American sportsmen conservation ethic.'" According to the article, "the move is likely to be welcomed by hunters and fishers and is the latest Trump effort to reach

out to those groups.”

The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (9/15) reports that “sportsmen’s and conservation groups across the country are applauding” the order. Chris Cox, executive director of the National Rifle Association, said, “In the past, management plans for federal lands have been put in place to ban hunting and shooting. Sportsmen and women can now breathe a sigh of relief that those days are over. This administration values access to public lands for sportsmen and we commend them for it.” The article notes that “other groups weighing in with support for the order included the National Wildlife Federation, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus.”

However, the [AP](#) (9/15, Daly) reports that “environmentalists dismissed it as ‘a do-nothing order.’” Matt Lee-Ashley, a former Interior official who is now a senior fellow at the left-leaning Center for American Progress, said that “the public already has the right to hunt and fish on federal lands, and states have primary authority to regulate hunting and fishing in those areas.” Lee-Ashley said, “Secretary Zinke is trying desperately to create a distraction from his proposal to dramatically reduce the size of America’s national monuments, which would be the largest elimination of protections for wildlife habitat in U.S. history.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (9/15, Green), the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/15, Siciliano), the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/16, Davis), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/15, D’angelo), [Courthouse News](#) (9/15, Renda), the [Boating Industry](#) (9/15), [AmmoLand](#) (9/15, Evans), [Scout](#) (9/17, Young), [KXLF-TV](#) Butte, MT (9/15), and [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (9/16).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (9/15, Daly), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/15, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/15), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/1, Daly), the [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (9/15, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/15, Daly), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/15, Daly), the [Washington Post](#), and the [Washington Times](#) (9/15, Daly).

**Commentary: Increasing Access To Hunting, Fishing And Recreation.** In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/17, Bernhardt), David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Department, writes that the Interior Department is “working with the nation’s leading wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation groups, as well as our state partners,” to look “for ways to increase hunting, fishing and recreational boating opportunities and access on public and private lands for all Americans.” Bernhardt asserts that “it’s vital that we find ways to connect new generations with these pursuits, because they’re not just part of who we are individually. They constitute the very foundations of the healthy lands and waters that sustain healthy societies.”

### **Interior Report Recommends Cuts Or Changes To Seven National Land Monuments.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17, Carlton) reports that according to a report sent to the White House, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended reductions or other changes to almost half of the national monuments he reviewed at the President’s request. Among Zinke’s recommendations are condensing the boundaries of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante preserves in Utah, Nevada’s Gold Butte, Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou, and reopening hundreds of thousands of square miles of protected the Pacific and Atlantic oceans to commercial fishing.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Eilperin) says that the White House “is reviewing the recommendations and has not reached a final decision on them.” If the changes recommended by Zinke are enacted, they “could test the legal boundaries of what powers a president holds under the 1906 Antiquities Act.”

The [AP](#) (9/17, Daly) reports that “if Trump adopts the recommendations, it would quiet some of the worst fears of his opponents, who warned that vast public lands and marine areas could be lost to states or private interests.” However, “significant reductions in the size of the monuments, especially those created by Obama, would mark the latest in a string of actions where Trump has sought to erode his Democratic predecessor’s legacy.”

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (9/17, Seipel), the [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Morton), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/17, Coleman), the [Oregonian](#) (9/17, Kavanaugh), the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/18, Rogers), and the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (9/17).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/18, Daly), the [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (9/18, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/18), the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (9/17, Daly), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/15, Daly), the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/17), the [New York Daily News](#) (9/18), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (9/17, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/17, Daly), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/17, Daly), the [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Matthew Daly |, Ap), and [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/17, Daly).

**Utah Quietly Tells Feds: Trim Bears Ears Monument By 90 Percent.** The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/17, Maffly) reports that Utah has submitted maps to the Interior Department detailing a

reduction in the size of Bears Ears National Monument. Utah's "vision, shared with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, is to shrink Bears Ears to one-tenth its current 1.35 million acres, scaling the southeastern Utah monument down to about 120,000 acres surrounding Mule and Arch canyons west of Blanding, according to maps and other documents prepared by Gov. Gary Herbert's office and obtained by The Salt Lake Tribune through records requests." However, the state's plan was "immediately panned by Native American leaders, who say it disregards the wishes of the tribes that sought the monument in the first place."

**Additional Commentary.** Additional commentary appeared in the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (9/16, Saylor), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (9/16, Lien), and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/16, Sedall).

### **Trump Administration Working Toward Renewed Drilling In Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.**

The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, A1, Eilperin) reports in a front-page article that the Trump Administration is moving to permit energy exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the first time in 30 years. In August, Fish and Wildlife Service acting director James W. Murth ordered an update to "a rule that allowed exploratory drilling between Oct. 1, 1984, and May 31, 1986," by removing the dates to allow "applicants to [submit] requests for approval of new exploration plans." According to [Fortune](#) (9/15, Reiss), "tens of millions of dollars have been spent on the battle for ANWR" over the years. The piece extensively details past efforts to open up the area to drilling as well as current struggles, adding that Alaska's senators – Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan – believe "that 2018 will be the best chance for success that the pro-ANWR-drilling movement has had in 25 years."

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Friedman), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/17, Landers), [USA Today](#) (9/15), [Forbes](#) (9/17, Silverstein), and [Fortune](#) (9/15).

### **This Season, Western Wildfires Are Close By And Running Free.**

"Extreme fire behavior – difficult to predict and dangerous to fight – has been the watchword of the 2017 season across the West," the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Johnson) reports, as "more large, uncontrolled wildfires were burning in 10 Western states in early September than at any comparable time since 2006." The Times says "from California to Utah and Montana, thousands...have also been forced to flee, and evacuation orders were still in place late last week for 23 active fires in four states, with nearly 21,000 firefighters in the field across the region." However, "at least so far, the year is not a record, with 8.3 million acres burned as of mid-September" compared with "more than 10 million acres burned in 2015, the worst fire season in decades." The Times adds that "much of that land...was far from population centers" whereas "in stark contrast, this year's fires are licking at people's back doors or, in some cases, consuming the doors altogether."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Griggs, Lai, Ashkenas, Patel) in a separate article reports the wildfires in the Pacific Northwest have led to "dangerous air quality throughout the region, and generated plumes of smoke that spread across vast swaths of North America." Colin Seftor, an atmospheric scientist at NASA, "said he believed that the smoke beyond the Western states was high enough in the atmosphere that there were no immediate health concerns for the rest of the country. But he said that such large clouds of particulates in the air could have broader impact, like a reduction in temperatures on the ground."

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/16, story 7, 0:15, Morgan) briefly reported snow fell in the mountains of Montana and Wyoming on Friday, which fire officials acknowledged "is slowing the spread of wildfires, but it won't bring an end to the fire season."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by [NBC News](#) (9/16, McCausland), the [AP](#) (9/17), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/15, Yonder, Contributor), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (9/16), the [Denver Post](#) (9/15, Baughman), the [The East Oregonian](#) (9/15, Baughman), the [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (9/16, Baughman), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (9/15), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (9/16), and the [Canada Free Press](#) (9/17, Driessen).

### **Diverse Foes Of Offshore Atlantic Drilling Hope To Halt Trump Plan.**

[McClatchy](#) (9/15, Pugh) reports a bipartisan group of state and federal lawmakers have joined business leaders to convince President Trump to abandon plans to permit energy exploration in the Atlantic. Instead of making an environmental appeal, the group is "raising concerns about the economic effect that seismic testing and drilling could have on the multi-billion dollar coastal tourism and fishing industries." While oil producers argue Atlantic exploration would bring jobs and economic development to the coast, opponents claim that "restaurants, hotels and other

businesses could be jeopardized by the possibility of a large oil spill.”

### **Hurricanes Present New Challenge To Trump’s Fast-track Permit Plan.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/18, Siegel) reports that the Trump Administration, “wanting to rebuild America’s infrastructure as quickly as possible, has issued several executive orders to streamline the permitting and environmental review process for federally funded projects.” For instance, the Interior Department “this month issued a memo directing its agencies to limit environmental impact statements to 150 pages ‘or 300 pages for unusually complex projects.’” However, “environmentalists, legal experts, and some lawmakers are now questioning the wisdom of these measures in the wake of major flooding and destruction caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.”

### **‘I’m Working In The ... Soviet Union.’ Interior Staff Eyed For Leaks.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/15) reports the US EPA “intends to comply with a White House directive aimed at cracking down on leaks across the federal government, said agency spokeswoman Liz Bowman.” In an email, Bowman said, “We fully agree that government employees should do their part to protect classified information and control unclassified information. ... EPA is developing training to support the White House’s request.” Other officials in the government “are expected to get similar instructions after Trump’s national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, issued a memo earlier this month to the heads of agencies across government.” McMaster’s “directive comes as part of a broad effort by the Trump administration to crack down on leaks. The memo was sent to environmental and energy agency leaders, including EPA boss Scott Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (a post that is currently vacant).” E&E adds “press offices at DOE and Interior did not respond to requests for comment about whether they plan to hold training sessions.”

### **After Massive Giveaways To Industry, Mining Executives Will Spend Big At Trump’s D.C. Hotel.**

[The Hill](#) (9/15, Manchester) “Briefing Room” blog cites the [Intercept](#) in reporting that the National Mining Association will hold a conference in October at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC. The event will “include strategic policy discussions, as well as speeches and meetings with members of the administration, including Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.” According to The Hill, “Zinke is considered to be a close ally of the coal industry, while the president has made repeated promises on the campaign trail and in his presidency to revamp the coal industry and bring jobs back to miners.” However, The Hill acknowledges that the venue “is likely to raise eyebrows, due to the president alleged business ties to the hotel, which he has frequented as president.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Energy](#) (9/15, Adragna).

### **Damaged Chalet In Montana Being Protected From Winter.**

The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that “work is being done to help protect what remains of a fire damaged chalet in Glacier National Park from Montana’s winter weather.” The historic Sperry Chalet building was “burned by a wildfire on Aug. 31.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “has ordered an independent investigation into the incident and expedited the inspection of the remaining structure.” Zinke said “in a statement issued Friday that rebuilding the Sperry building is one of his top priorities.”

Also reporting are the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/16, Franz), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/17), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/16, Kidston), [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (9/15, Sherman), [KTVO-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (9/15, Sherman), and [KWYB-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (9/15).

### **Feds Announce \$62 Million For Navajo Water Pipeline.**

The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that the Interior Department “says it’s awarded a nearly \$62 million contract for construction of a water pipeline between two northwestern New Mexico communities.” The pipeline is part of the greater Navajo-Gallup Water Supply project. It “aims to create a sustainable water supply for Navajo Nation and Jicarilla Apache residents and Gallup.”

### **Wyoming’s Sage Grouse Team Meets To Discuss Federal Shake Up Of Their Plan.**

[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (9/15, McKim) reports that “the sage grouse implementation team met for the first time since the Department of Interior announced recommendations to a collaborative



state and federal Obama era plan." At the meeting, the team talked about "changes they would like to see including fixing discrepancies between the state and federal maps that identify sage grouse lands that can be leased for energy development."

### **Op-ed: Non-producing Oil And Gas Leases Tie Up 1.7 Million Acres Of Land In Utah.**

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/17, Saeger), Chris Saeger, executive director of the Western Values Project, claims that "despite strong public support for protecting our outdoor heritage, since the start of the Trump administration the scale has been steadily tipping in favor of the special interests that threaten access to public lands." Saeger accuses Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the Interior Department of "short-changing families, using loopholes to capitalize off of our public lands and unfairly diverting taxpayer money to a handful of elites." Saeger decries a system that "overwhelmingly favors oil and gas development over conservation, despite the economic benefits recreation also brings to communities."

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **Judge Nixes Challenge To Calif. Tribal Trust Land Decision.**

[Law360](#) (9/15, Westney) reports that "a California federal judge on Thursday tossed a suit by a community group seeking to block the Bureau of Indian Affairs from taking approximately 853 acres into trust for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, saying the agency had properly evaluated the tribe's need for the land and potential jurisdictional and land use conflicts." The Capay Valley Coalition "filed a complaint in December 2015 claiming that the BIA and its officers violated the Administrative Procedure Act."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Environmentalists Get Win In US Coal-climate Change Lawsuit.**

The [AP](#) (9/15, Gruver) reports the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday ruled that the Bureau of Land Management did not provide enough information to support its argument that blocking specific coal "leases would have no net effect on climate change" because power plants could get the coal elsewhere. The AP calls the ruling a "major victory" for environmentalists, who say they will use it to fight other coal mining leases across the country. However, mining will continue at the leases while a lower court considers the new information.

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (9/15, Grzincic).

### **US Agent Out At BLM After Burning Man Probe.**

The [AP](#) (9/15, Whitehurst) reports that "a federal agent who had been scrutinized for his handling of rare evidence as well as behavior at the counterculture Burning Man festival is no longer an employee of the Bureau of Land Management, authorities said Friday." Daniel Love, "who played a command role in federal agents' 2014 standoff with Nevada rancher and states' rights figure Cliven Bundy, no longer works for the agency, spokeswoman Megan Crandall told the Associated Press." Crandall "did not answer questions about the timing or circumstances of his departure, citing federal privacy laws."

### **Lectures 'Bring Science And Nature' Into Prison.**

The [AP](#) (9/17, Marrow) reports that "more than 20 inmates at the Snake River Correctional Institution minimum-security facility were given the chance to take part in some community education when two presenters from local wildlife and ecology groups visited to educate them about owls within the state of Oregon." According to the article, "Nancy DeWitt, from the Institute of Applied Ecology, along with Corrine Coffman, from the Bureau of Land Management operated Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, were on hand to offer information about the number of species of owls within Oregon." The presentation is part of a lecture series by the Institute of Applied Ecology.

### **Lawsuit Opposes Wild Horse Birth Control.**

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (9/15, Perkowski) reports that "a lawsuit seeks to halt birth control treatments for wild horses in the West until the effects are better understood." The nonprofit animal rights group Friends of Animals has "filed a lawsuit seeking to stop the federal

government from administering birth control to wild horses in the West.” The group “claims the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the birth control agent — porcine zona pellucida or PZP — without properly researching its impact on wild horses.” In its complaint, the group “asked a federal judge to order EPA to suspend registration of PZP until it conducts a special review of the substance, which would effectively halt birth control treatments for wild horses.”

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

---

### **BOEM Invites Public To Offshore Wind Meeting In New York.**

[North American Windpower](#) (9/15, Lillian) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is “inviting the public to its fifth meeting of the New York Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force on Oct. 3 in New York.” According to the bureau, “the meeting will continue stakeholder engagement related to the development of offshore wind on the Outer Continental Shelf of New York.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Windpower Engineering & Development](#) (9/15, Froese).

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

---

### **Delta Tunnels Opponents Target WaterFix Money.**

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/15, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that “opponents of the Delta tunnels proposal, facing a long-shot bid to kill the controversial project on environmental grounds, are now trying to undermine the plan’s financial structure.” According to the article, “six environmental groups filed court papers late Thursday attempting to derail the state Department of Water Resources’ plans to bankroll the tunnels with billions of dollars in bond financing.” The groups claimed “bonds can’t be issued because the tunnels violate California environmental laws and because the project has received illegal subsidies from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.”

### **How The Elsinore Water District Plans To Deal With Future Water Shortages.**

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/17, Williams) reports on the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District’s proposed Drought Contingency Plan, which anticipates that customer demand will double by 2040 even as the water supply shrinks. The plan was financed by a \$115,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. Drought planning grants were also awarded to the Inland Empire Utilities Agency in Chino Hills, the City of Rialto, and Southern California Edison for Catalina Island.

### **Lake Mohave Lowered For Annual Razorback Sucker Harvest.**

The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (9/16) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Region is “lowering water levels in Lake Mohave to aid in harvesting razorback suckers, a species native to the Colorado River, from lakeside rearing ponds.”

### **Water Managers Seek Certainty In Colorado Basin.**

The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (9/16, Tory) reports that “bringing more certainty to an unruly and unpredictable Colorado River system was a common theme among water managers speaking at the Colorado River District’s annual seminar Friday.” According to the article, “as many of the speakers at the river district’s annual seminar explained, water managers now have more tools than ever before to address those challenges — and new urgency with which to apply them.”

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

---

### **Minnesota Artist Wins Federal Duck Stamp Contest.**

The [AP](#) (9/16) reports that “a Minnesota artist has won the federal duck stamp art contest for 2017.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “announced Saturday that Bob Hautman from Delano won the contest with his acrylic painting of a pair of mallards.” It is Hautman’s third win.

Also reporting are the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/16, Giles), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (9/16, Orrick), [WLUK-TV Green Bay \(WI\)](#) Green Bay, WI (9/15, Peterson), and [WLUK-TV Green Bay \(WI\)](#) Green Bay, WI (9/16).



### **Anti-poaching Wildlife Effort Brings African Contingent To Denver.**

The [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (9/17) reports that “conservation law enforcement officials and other wildlife experts from the United States and Africa are working together.” According to the article, “a group of 42 African officials from 16 different countries are spending Sept. 9-22 in the Washington, D.C., area and Denver to train with 32 members of U.S. anti-trafficking law enforcement at an academy to strengthen international partnerships and fight illegal wildlife dealing.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KUSA-TV](#) Denver (9/17, Garcia).

### **Endangered Mexican Wolf Killed Following Livestock Attacks.**

The [AP](#) (9/15, Bryan) reports that “an endangered Mexican gray wolf has been killed by federal employees after a Native American tribe requested the animal be removed from the wild in the wake of a string of cattle deaths near the Arizona-New Mexico border.” The article notes that “the death of the female wolf marks the first time in a decade that efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to curb livestock attacks by wolves has had lethal consequences for one of the predators.” According to the article, “the decision to remove the member of the Diamond Pack was first made in June after three calves were killed over several days, sparking concern among wildlife managers about what they described as an unacceptable pattern of predation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KRQE-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (9/15).

### **Arizona Jaguar Turns Out To Be Another Male.**

The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/15, Loomis) reports that “Arizona state biologists say a jaguar sighted in the Chiricahua Mountains this summer is not the state’s first female of the species in decades, as wildlife conservationists had hoped.” The Center for Biological Diversity on Thursday “released video of the jaguar — the seventh known to have prowled southern Arizona since the mid-1990s — with a note of hope that it could be the first female in that number.” On Friday, the Arizona Game and Fish Department “released a photo of a jaguar taken in the same mountains by a U.S. Bureau of Land Management camera in April.”

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/15, Davis) reports that “shortly after the center released the video Thursday morning, an Arizona Game and Fish biologist disclosed in an email that the jaguar is a male.”

### **Activist Urges Walrus Rafts In Absence Of Arctic Sea Ice.**

The [AP](#) (9/18, Joling) reports that “an environmental activist is calling on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider placing anchored rafts in the ocean as resting platforms for walrus after stampedes killed 64 animals on Alaska’s northwest coast.” Rick Steiner, “an environmental consultant and former University of Alaska marine conservation professor, pitched the idea two years ago.” The FWS “concluded it didn’t have the money or manpower to provide artificial resting platforms that might give a few walrus relief but not benefit the population as a whole in the absence of ice in the Chukchi Sea.” Steiner said “he’s again asking the agency to take the lead in a raft pilot project because sea ice continues to diminish and artificial platforms could provide alternatives to huge herds gathering on the Alaska coast.”

### **How 230 Endangered Parrots Survived Hurricane Irma In Puerto Rico.**

[Newsweek](#) (9/15, Bartels) reports that “when Hurricane Irma started barreling toward Puerto Rico,” the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took steps to protect 230 endangered Puerto Rican parrots. According to the article, “that meant gathering all 230 of them into the so-called hurricane room, a process that takes at least a few hours and sometimes half a day.” Edwin Muniz, a field supervisor at the Caribbean Ecological Services Office of the FWS, said, “Our staff has been trained—they’ve done this many times.”

### **Refuge Proposes Reopening Bayside Drive To Traffic.**

The [Rio Grande Valley \(TX\) Morning Star](#) (9/15, Kelley) reports that “a four-year hiatus for vehicle traffic on popular Bayside Drive at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge may be coming to an end.” According to the article, “in part to help counter a major decline in visitors since 2013, Laguna Atascosa officials are proposing to reopen the road with some significant changes in what would be a \$4.015 million project.”

### **Grizzlies, Noble And Worthy Creatures, On The Comeback.**

In a piece for the [Bemidji \(MN\) Pioneer](#) (9/15, Klemek), Blane Klemek, a Minnesota DNR wildlife

manager, writes that “for certain, grizzly bear existence, as well as their 40-year recovery from less than 200 animals in the 1970s to the near 1,500 grizzlies today, was made possible by their receiving full protection under the ESA.” He asserts that “collaboration and cooperation was key to grizzly bear population recovery.”

## National Park Service

---

### **Weekend Of Juggalos, Trump Supporters, Counterprotesters Is Here. Get Ready For Street Closures And Police Presence.**

The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Stein) reported that Saturday will see 35 events across federal parks in DC, ranging from weddings and charity races to a pro-Trump rally (dubbed the Mother of All Rallies), a counter-rally, and an unrelated rally for fans of the music group Insane Clown Posse who are protesting a 2011 FBI classification of the group as a gang. Leaders from the latter and the pro-Trump rally have stated that they do not wish for, nor do they expect any violent clashes with outside groups. Confidence in the police to do their jobs effectively was communicated by Peter Boykin, president of Gays for Trump and a speaker at the conservative rally.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/16, Jamison, Stein, Soong, Sacchetti) reported demonstrations “got off to a peaceful start in the nation’s capital Saturday” alongside “notoriously rowdy” fans of the rap-metal group Insane Clown Posse known as “Juggalo.” The Post reports that “the Mall had an atmosphere more akin to a military zone than tourist magnet, with police and Secret Service agents swarming the area,” in anticipation of a pro-Trump event, as well as “the march of the Juggalos,” who were “protesting their designation as a criminal gang by the FBI.”

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/16, story 2, 2:15, Morgan) aired footage of both the pro-Trump “Mother Of All Rallies” event, and the Juggalo protest of its gang designation. CBS reported that the pro-Trump appeared to be smaller than the 5,000 predicted.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 8, 0:25, Welker) called the Juggalo protest “one of the most unusual rallies” the capital has seen, and commented that while the pro-Trump event was billed as “the Mother of All Rallies,” the turnout “didn’t quite match that description.” According to the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Baumgaertner), “Washingtonians had nothing to fear. In fact, they barely blinked. It was just another day in the capital’s summer of protest.”

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Baumgaertner), [NPR](#) (9/15, Simons), [NBC News](#) (9/16), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (9/17, York), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/16), and [WRC-TV Washington](#) (9/16).

### **Trump, Pence Welcome Young Fan To White House To Mow Lawn.**

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, story 11, 0:25, Mason) reported 11-year-old Frank “FX” Giaccio of Falls Church, Virginia, “a young fan of President Trump,” last month “wrote him a letter offering to mow the White House lawn. And the President took him up on it.” CBS added that the President “asked FX what he wants to be when he grows up. He replied, ‘A Navy SEAL.’” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, story 11, 0:25, Holt) reported FX “seemed to [mow the lawn] with such determination that it was hard for the President to get his attention. Afterward, Mr. Trump called Frank the ‘real future’ of the country.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Moyer) reports Trump “[tweeted](#) a video that shows Frank at work behind a Honda mower with a steely-eyed stare before meeting Vice President Pence. Then he met Trump in the Oval Office.” The President stated, “Frank ‘FX’ Giaccio – On behalf of @FLOTUS Melania & myself, THANK YOU for doing a GREAT job this morning! @NatIParkService gives you an A+!”

Also reporting are [NPR](#) (9/15, Horsley), the [AP](#), and [USA Today](#) (9/15, Estepa).

### **New Bill Aims To Restore ‘Common-Sense’ Plastic Water Bottle Ban In National Parks.**

[EcoWatch](#) (9/15, Chow) reports that Rep. Mike Quigley has introduced a bill to “address the issue of bottled water reduction in national parks.” The “Reducing Waste in National Parks Act” (HR 3768) “would allow National Park Service regional directors the discretion to implement the policy and encourages them to develop a visitor education strategy to explain the rationale for the program.” Quigley said in a statement, “President Trump and Interior Secretary Zinke’s decision to overturn the common-sense plastic water bottle ban in National Parks is a clear reminder that this Administration will continually bow to the agendas of profit-driven corporations at the expense of our National Parks, wildlife, and environment.”

### **Bill Introduced In Congress To Remove Robert E. Lee Statue From Antietam.**

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (9/15, Basch) reports that “a bill has been introduced in Congress calling for a statue of Robert E. Lee to be removed” from the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The article notes that “the statue is widely considered historically inaccurate because it depicts the general on his horse, even though Lee was brought to Antietam in an ambulance.” In a statement, the National Park Service “said its policy is to make no changes to Civil War monuments, even when they are considered inaccurate, unless directed to through legislation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WJZ-TV](#) Baltimore (9/17).

### **Irma Stirs Fear Of Setback To \$16 Billion Everglades Restoration.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/18, Natter) reports that since Hurricane Irma “swung up through the Florida Keys and the state’s western coast, federal officials have struggled to access the 1.5 million acre Everglades National Park and assess the damage.” Scientists are “anxious” to see “Irma’s lashing winds and surging seas had setback what progress there has been.”

### **Parts Of Blue Ridge Parkway Reopen Following Irma.**

The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that some sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina remained closed. The National Parks Service said that over 300 miles of the route had “downed trees and storm damage” and that “while some sections have reopened, others require more in-depth and technical cleanup.”

### **Fort Sumter Still Closed After Being Inundated With Water During Tropical Storm Irma.**

The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/15, Behre) reports that Fort Sumter is “expected to remain closed for at least a few more days while the National Park Service works to dry out its interior and repair its tour boat dock.” Dawn Davis was “among the National Park Service employees who toured the fort two days after Tropical Storm Irma hit.” Davis said “there appears to be little or no damage to the historic fabric of the 19th century fort.”

### **Lead Carver Of Mount Rushmore Honored With Plaque.**

The [AP](#) (9/16) reports that “the chief carver of Mount Rushmore who was responsible for refining the expressions on the faces of the monument’s four presidents was honored Saturday with a plaque that recognizes his work.” Luigi Del Bianco was “an Italian immigrant and stone carver whose job included the challenging tasks of sculpting Jefferson’s lips and Lincoln’s life-like eyes.” With the assistance of Del Bianco’s descendants, the National Park Service “unveiled a bronze plaque Saturday in his honor.”

Also reporting are [CBS News](#) (9/17) and [CBS News](#) (9/17).

### **A Revolutionary Battlefield Is Saved In Chester County.**

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/15, Nark) reports that the Civil War Trust has purchased a “10-acre patch in Birmingham Township, known as the Dilworth Farm, for \$850,000.” The article notes that “it is the first Revolutionary War battlefield to be acquired in Pennsylvania with grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program, funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund and administered by the National Park Service.”

### **Federal Grant Targeted At Western Maryland Battlefield.**

[WCBC-AM](#) Cumberland, MD (9/17) reports that “on the 155th anniversary of the Battle of South Mountain, Preservation Maryland announced ambitious plans to support and enhance Maryland Park Service efforts at the historic hillside battlefield.” According to the article, “with a \$55,000 grant from the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program, Preservation Maryland will convene a consensus driven planning effort to guide future preservation efforts and to develop community support for the park and its resources.” The plan will “consider both land protection priorities as well as historic structures of significance, including the Hamilton Willard Shafer Farm in Burkittsville, one of Preservation Maryland’s 2016 Six-to-Fix projects.”

### **Stonemasons Go Old-School To Repair Colorado Monument Walls.**

The [AP](#) (9/16, Slivka) reports that “following in the nearly 100-year-old footsteps of Depression-era laborers, a group of National Park Service masons are assiduously repairing and stabilizing stone barriers along Rim Rock Drive in Colorado National Monument.” The masons are “using archaic tools for their deliberate work — trowels, brushes, chisels and damp, gritty mortar — plus patience and care.”

## **Lottery To Open For Hikers Who Want To Trek All 67 Miles Of Santa Monica Mountain's Backbone Trail.**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/15, Forgione) reports that "the lottery will open soon for hikers who want to trek all 67 miles of Santa Monica Mountain's Backbone Trail on eight Saturdays between January and April." The National Park Service will pick 28 people "who want to see every inch of the through-trail that cuts across the Southern California coastal mountain range."

Additional coverage was provided by [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (9/15, Medina).

## **Conway Library Added To National Register Of Historic Places.**

The [AP](#) (9/17) reports that "the Conway Public Library has been added to the National Register of Historic Places both for its architecture and its role as a center for learning."

## **Additional Coverage: Park Service Tests Technique For Cleaning Microbes From Jefferson Memorial Dome.**

Additional coverage that the National Park Service has "started testing a process called laser ablation" to clean the Jefferson Memorial was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (9/16, Weil).

## **Office Of Insular Affairs**

---

### **U.S. Rushes Hurricane Irma Aid To Caribbean Islands, But Not To Cuba.**

[USA Today](#) (9/15, Stanglin) reports that in the 24 hours Hurricane Irma spent beating the northern parts of Cuba it damaged "more than 4,000 homes, inundating downtown Havana with knee-high floods and destroying thousands of acres of cane sugar," and disrupted water service for 3.1 million people – a quarter of the island's population – as "Small beach towns also were destroyed on the northern coast." At least 10 were killed. Despite this damage and the assistance being poured into neighboring islands, no US aid has been directed to Cuba. USA Today explains, "The guidelines for U.S. assistance include a requirement, not surprising, that a host country must request help, which Cuba — a proud adversary in a decades long battle with its superpower neighbor — is not inclined to do." The article says the tense relations are "compounded by President Trump's announced plan in June to roll back steps by President Barack Obama to normalize ties."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, story 7, 1:35, Holt) correspondent Stephanie Ruhle said in St. John, the hurricane "completely destroyed" much of the island. "Officials say schools could be closed for a year. One of the things that's the most stunning – the vegetation gone. A week ago, this was lush and green. Now it looks completely burnt out. It truly looks like a war zone." As of Friday, she added, "many are left without a livelihood on an island where tourism is critical," but residents "told us they're determined to help each other rebuild."

**Cuomo To Tour Virgin Islands.** [NY1-TV](#) New York (9/15) reports New York Governor Andrew Cuomo "will visit the U.S. Virgin Islands Friday to check out damage from Hurricane Irma." The state's national guard is in St. John and St. Thomas, having also sent crews to Texas after Harvey. Cuomo will tour the islands with Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp, who was born in Brooklyn, New York.

**Tourism-Dependent Caribbean Islands Face Long Post-Irma Recoveries.** The [New York Times](#) (9/15, Rosenbloom) reports that Hurricane Irma has left major cities, and in some cases entire Islands, in ruins in the Caribbean, setting the stage for a long road to recovery for many of the region's tourism-dependent communities. St. Martin and St. John are among the hardest hit while St. Kitts and Nevis, Anguilla, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, and Sint Eustatius were able to emerge "mostly unscathed." The Times says instead of tourism, governments "were still struggling — and continue to struggle — to ensure people's health and safety and evacuate stranded visitors." The disparity in damage is reportedly drastic as "Barbuda, where Hurricane Irma made landfall, is devastated, while Puerto Rico is not only open to tourists, it's a hub for relief efforts, and is welcoming hundreds of people to its shores from battered neighboring islands." The article provides an island-by-island breakdown of damage and outlook.

**Irma Destroyed Paradise Of US Virgin Islands.** A piece in the [New York Times](#) (9/15, Ferré-sadurní) provides a narrative description of the damage left behind in the US Virgin Islands by Hurricane Irma. The author describes small groups "huddled together to try to communicate with family abroad...Or to arrange to flee the island," on hilltops where cellphone service could be found. The story explains that "Ice was the most sought-after commodity, to quench children's thirst and to preserve perishable foods." The author explains, "The United States Virgin Islands

no longer has the air of paradise."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/17, Hennessy-Fiske).

***More Than A Week After Irma, St. Martin Is Still Trying To Survive.*** The [New York Times](#) (9/15, Ahmed) reports that over a week after facing Irma, St. Martin is still one of the Caribbean islands' hardest hit spots. While "a delicate order has been restored," residual issues from the damage are pervasive as the article explains: "there is still almost no fuel or electricity, and food delivery, for now, remains erratic. A near total communication blackout throttles the island. Almost all of the schools are destroyed and will be closed for months, at best." Rampant looting is also detailed in the damaged and evacuated areas where the lawlessness has "shattered the image many residents had of their island." The island is reportedly split into two French and Dutch sides. The French side has reported a death toll of 11, but the Times says many find this much too low given the damage and the storm's power when it hit. Some officials reportedly estimate the number will reach over 100.

***St. Martin Residents Face Existential Question Of Whether To Rebuild.*** The [Miami Herald](#) (9/16, Wyss) reports that "ten days after Hurricane Irma turned St. Martin into a jigsaw of ripped metal and shattered wood, residents were still struggling with an existential question: Should they cling to an island that can barely support life or start over elsewhere?" According to the Herald, the hurricane has transformed "the picturesque tourist haven into a sweltering trash heap without power, water or communications. What the hurricane didn't steal, looters often did." While some locals expressed interest in rebuilding, "St. Martin's economic lifeblood, tourism, doesn't seem like it will be pumping anytime soon. Streets remain choked with garbage, and hotels and rental properties have been cracked open like dollhouses with their façades removed."

***Residents "Marooned" On British Virgin Islands, But Not Giving Up.*** "Hurricane Irma's winds annihilated many of the homes here on Jost Van Dyke, one of the British Virgin Islands," the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Ferré-Sadurni) reports, and "without electricity, running water or telephone lines, the island's 298 inhabitants have been marooned, forced to survive with what they salvaged: a satellite phone, a chain saw, a week's worth of food." According to the Times, "Many residents said the British government in London, which oversees the islands, has been sluggish to attend to their dire situation, so residents have had to band together."

***Escaped British Virgin Islands Prisoners Rounded Up By Police, British Royal Marines.*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Gross) reports that after prisoners escaped from Basam Ghut prison on the British Virgin Islands, one of the worst-struck locations in the path of Hurricane Irma, a joint force of British Royal Marines, Police from the UK, local police, and Cayman Island police recaptured over 100 escapees in the storm's wake. Alan Duncan, a minister in Britain's Foreign Office, reportedly said over 180 troops were dispatched by Britain to aid in the effort. The WSJ reports various European governments have sent police and military forces to aid in distribution of resources and restoration of order in their Caribbean territories. The report adds that rumors which had circulated in St. Martin of escaped prisoners roaming the island armed with guns turned out to be false after authorities responded.

***Barbuda Has No People For First Time In 300 Years.*** [CNN International](#) (9/15, Sterling, Santiago) reports according to Ronald Sanders, the Antigua and Barbuda ambassador to the US, "For the first time in 300 years, there's not a single living person on the island of Barbuda." Meanwhile, CNN says that "Antigua received minimal damage." Barbuda had about 3 percent of the nation's population. The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Degrandpre) reports Sanders told PRI's the Takeaway, "The damage is complete." He added, "A civilization that has existed on that island for over 300 years has now been extinguished." According to the Post, "a local broadcaster in Barbuda summarized the situation thus: The island's history will now be described in two epochs. Before Irma and after Irma."

***Barbuda "Uninhabitable" After Hurricane Irma.*** [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 3, 0:35, Welker) reported on "new images" revealing "the devastation in Barbuda, the small island that was perhaps hardest hit" by Hurricane Irma one week ago. "Ninety-five percent of the buildings on Barbuda were destroyed," and its "entire population has evacuated." It is now being "described as uninhabitable." Meanwhile, tropical storm "Maria could affect some of the same areas of the Caribbean that were hit hard by Irma."

### **Hurricane Maria Moving Toward Caribbean.**

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/17, story 2, 0:20, Quijano) reported, "Hurricane Jose continues to rumble towards the East Coast" but is "not expected to make landfall." However, "a potentially larger threat, Hurricane Maria, is strengthening in the Atlantic, targeting Caribbean islands, still reeling from Hurricane Irma."



In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/17, lead story, 2:05, Llamas) reported Maria's current path "looks similar to Irma," but computer models "hint" Maria "may go out to sea" instead of crossing over the Caribbean islands like Irma did. By contrast, [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/17, story 4, 1:40, Snow) said Maria "could cause more damage in already-hit-hard parts of the Caribbean." It is currently "strengthening as it heads for Barbuda, St. Maarten, and the Virgin Islands."

### **National Hurricane Center Warns Maria Following Irma's Path Through Caribbean.**

The [Miami Herald](#) (9/16, Staletovich) reports that in its 8 p.m. update, National Hurricane Center forecasters said Tropical Storm Maria, which formed in the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday afternoon, "will likely bring dangerous winds, more storm surge and heavy rain to parts of the Lesser Antilles and strengthen into a hurricane Sunday, then approach the Leeward Islands on Monday." According to the Herald, hurricane watches were issued on Saturday evening "for Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and Guadeloupe. Tropical storm watches were issued for other islands in the chain." The Herald adds that "by midweek, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico could again face fierce winds." The Coast Guard captain of the Port of San Juan also "warned that sustained gale force winds greater than 39 miles per hour may arrive within 72 hours, and advised pleasure craft 'to seek safe harbor.'"

### **US Prepares Militarily As North Korea Pledges "Military Equilibrium."**

Ron Allen of [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 5, 2:20, Welker) reported "Osan Air Base – just 50 miles from the border, home to many of the 28,000 US military personnel in South Korea – remains on constant state of alert" amid the escalating North Korean threat. The so-called "Dragon Lady," a "top-secret U-2 spy plane" first used to collect intelligence on the former Soviet Union, is "taking on one of America's toughest challenges here, trying to gather intelligence about what Kim Jong Un will do next."

President Trump said "US options to deal with the threat are, quote, 'effective and overwhelming,'" recalled the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/16, story 4, 0:25, Morgan), which reported that North Korea "released photos of its Friday morning missile launch with leader Kim Jong Un watching on as it sailed over Japan and into the Pacific." In the images, published by North Korea's state-run news agency KCNA, Kim was shown "beaming as he watched the missile fly from a moving launcher in photos released by the agency, surrounded by several officials," [Reuters](#) (9/15, Kim, Nichols) reports. KCNA quoted Kim Jong Un as saying that the "final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force" with the US military, and dissuade the Administration from discussing any "military option."

**Economists: UN Sanctions Targeting North Korean Garment Exports To Impact Female Employees.** The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Fifield) reports "the United Nations Security Council unanimously decided this week to prohibit North Korea from exporting labor and textiles," a move Ambassador Haley said imposes "an almost \$800 million hit to its revenue." Diplomats said the ban refers to "textiles," but economists clarified that "it should more accurately be called a 'garment' ban" because the nation "does not export bolts of fabric but instead produces labor-intensive articles of clothing." Unlike previous actions against the regime, the move against "North Korea's garment industry is one that will have wide-reaching ramifications across North Korean society," not just the government. According to Marcus Noland of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, the ban will likely "hurt ordinary people and especially women," who account for about 98 percent of North Koreans employed in the garment industry.

**House Considers Bill Targeting Multinational Banks With North Korean Ties.** [The Hill](#) (9/16, Lane) reports the House Financial Services Committee is reviewing a bill that "would ban any foreign bank that services North Korea's government or regime-connected shell companies from opening a correspondent account with" an American bank. The bill has garnered bipartisan support, and is "currently circulating as a discussion draft, while other panels in both chambers of Congress work on their own offerings." While the measure "could have massive economic implications for the United States and its relationship with China," its supporters maintain that "North Korea's belligerent behavior and recent test of what appeared to be a hydrogen bomb requires a major response." The Hill says China hosts a number of shell companies that the North Korean "regime uses to support itself through money laundering and smuggling," and while the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC, "can list these companies and banks as they're revealed," experts have said China must intensify its efforts in identifying them.

**NYTimes: US-China Relations Can Improve By Coordinating Against Climate Change.** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/16) concedes "no relationship is more crucial than that between"



the US and China, and “President Trump seems to understand all that.” However, the Times says, Trump “has failed to articulate a coherent strategy toward China or to achieve significant progress on the many consequential issues.” He also seems “to lump all China-related issues into one big, menacing ball – trade, tariffs, North Korea – rather than dealing with them separately, and this has added more complications.” The Times posits that the issue of climate change offers “a template for cooperation, and while it involves an issue in which Mr. Trump has no interest, it provides a glimpse of a way forward.”

## US Geological Survey

---

### After Disaster Strikes, Science Often Benefits.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/16, Yeager) reported that data collected during natural disasters can often help researchers discover better ways to help people in such emergencies. The article mentions “the science done during Hurricane Harvey” as an example. According to the article, “not long after the heavy rains stopped, crews of researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey fanned out across Texas, dropping sensors into streams.”

### Tribal Leaders Urge Yellowstone Park Name Changes.

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/17) reports that “leaders of Native American tribes gathered this weekend to urge the U.S. government to rename a valley and a mountain in Yellowstone National Park.” Tribal leaders “delivered a petition Saturday to park officials noting their opposition to the names of Hayden Valley and Mount Doane.”

### Commentary: National Earthquake Program Is Vital To Utah.

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/17, Arabasz), Walter J. Arabasz, research professor emeritus of geology and geophysics at the University of Utah; M. Leon Berrett, the chair of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission and associate director of operations for Salt Lake County Public Works; Keith Koper, professor of geophysics at the University of Utah and director of the University of Utah Seismograph Stations; and Peter Shearer, a professor of geophysics at U.C. San Diego and president-elect of the Seismological Society of America, warn that “the earthquake threat in Utah is real.” They urge support of a bipartisan bill introduced September 6 in Congress that would reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program “to support wide-ranging endeavors to deal with the nation’s earthquake threat.”

### Additional Reading.

- *Wide-ranging Spending Bill Includes Money To Combat Algae Blooms.* [TC Palm \(FL\)](#) (9/15, King).
- *Why A Glacier In Interior Alaska Is Being Used As Testing Ground For Equipment Intended For Outer Space.* [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/17, Rosen).
- *Western Fires Take Toll On Water Supplies.* [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (9/16, Berwyn).
- *Flooding From Irma Prompts A New Look At Marshfront Surge.* [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (9/16, Landers).
- *USGS Scientist Reports To Council About Storms, Rising Sea Level.* [Malibu \(CA\) Times](#) (9/17, Laetz).
- *Will Rain Help Or Hurt Eagle Creek Fire In The Gorge? It’s Complicated.* [Oregonian](#) (9/16, Brettman).
- *Annual Feds Feed Families Food Drive Collects More Than 2,000 Pounds Of Food.* [Nevada Appeal](#) (9/16).
- *Earthquake: 3.1 Quake Strikes Near Morettis Junction.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/15).
- *Earthquake: 3.2 Quake Strikes Near Highland Springs, Calif.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/15).
- *Earthquake: 3.4 Quake Strikes Near Pentland.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/15).
- *Earthquake: Magnitude 3.1 Quake Strikes Near Salton Sea.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/16).

## Top National News

---

## As He Prepares To Address UN, Trump Dubs North Korea's Kim Jong-Un "Rocket Man."

The President's [tweet](#) Sunday morning mocking North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un as "Rocket Man" is garnering significant media attention. All three networks reported Sunday night on the tweet. Media reports widely note the President's remark comes as he prepares to address the UN General Assembly for the first time on Tuesday and that North Korea is expected to be a central part of his speech.

The [AP](#) (9/17, Superville) reports President Trump "mocked" the North Korean leader in a tweet saying he and South Korean President Moon Jae-in "discussed North Korea during their latest telephone conversation Saturday." The [CBS Weekend News](#) ☐ (9/17, story 5, 2:00, Quijano) said the President "launched a twitter insult at North Korea's leader," and "coin[ed] a new nickname" for him. On [NBC Nightly News](#) ☐ (9/17, story 3, 2:55, Snow), Kelly O'Donnell said, "Today amid tweets, the President weighed in on a dire threat as he described a call with President Moon of South Korea and taunted North Korea's leader with a new mocking label."

Asked about Trump's description of Kim on [Fox News Sunday](#) ☐, National Security Adviser McMaster said "Rocket Man" was "a new one and I think maybe for the president." But, McMaster added, "that's where the rockets are coming from. Rockets, though, we ought to probably not laugh too much about because they do represent a great threat to all." [ABC World News Tonight](#) ☐ (9/17, story 6, 2:30, Llamas) reported there was "no comment from the White House" on the President's tweet.

[USA Today](#) (9/17, Jackson) reports the tweet "came a day before Trump conferences with members of the United States General Assembly, where North Korea's development of nuclear weapons – and its threats to use them against the United States and allies – will be a major topic." The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Nakamura, Morello) similarly says the President's "Twitter snark came two weeks after Kim's regime undertook its biggest nuclear test to date," [Politico](#) (9/17, Griffiths) that Trump took "a dig at North Korea's leader," and [Townhall](#) (9/17, Meads) that he "issued a new nickname for North Korean potbellied dictator."

[NPR](#) (9/17) reports that during their conversation Saturday night, Trump and Moon declared their commitment "to continuing to take steps to strengthen deterrence and defense capabilities and to maximize economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea," according to the White House. The [New York Post](#) (9/17, Moore; Schultz) reports Trump also "signaled that United Nations' sanctions...are working as he referred to 'long gas lines' in North Korea."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Richardson) writes, "You know you've run afoul of President Trump when he gives you a nickname." The Times says Trump's "approach represents the opposite of that of President George W. Bush, who gave out dozens of pet names for staffers, family, friends and foreign leaders. In the vast majority of cases, Mr. Bush's nicknames were affectionate, not insulting."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Selk) similarly notes that "Rocket Man" is the "latest in a long line of nicknames" created by the President. "Without addressing the geopolitical wisdom of tweet-baiting an unpredictable dictator," The Post notes that "even some of Trump's critics had to admit that he'd come up with a pretty clever name."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) ☐ (9/17, story 6, 2:30, Llamas) reported President Trump is already in New York City in advance of his address to the UN, where North Korea is expected to take "center stage." ABC's Gloria Riviera noted that "we do not anticipate seeing either Russia's President or China's President – both leaders are key in applying pressure on North Korea, but the President will not have the chance to make his case personally for harsher sanctions."

[Reuters](#) (9/17, Nichols) likewise says the nuclear threat posed by North Korea "looms large this week over the" UN General Assembly, where "North Korean diplomats will have a front-row seat...for Trump's speech on Tuesday morning, which will touch on the escalating crisis." National Security Adviser McMaster said Friday, "This is not an issue between the United States and North Korea. This is an issue between the world and North Korea." The [CBS Weekend News](#) ☐ (9/17, story 5, 2:00, Quijano) too reported that when Trump addresses the General Assembly, Ambassador Haley "said North Korea will be front and center," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/17, King) says the gathering is "expected to focus on North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threat."

[USA Today](#) (9/17, Jackson) reports that as the President heads to the UN "to meet with world leaders, and many of them are anxious – not just about global national security challenges, but about Trump himself." While the President "hopes to use his first appearance before the UN General Assembly to rally other countries against North Korea's nuclear threats, some world leaders are still reeling from their last interactions with the somewhat testy Trump at global summits earlier this year."

Calling it a “pivotal week” for the President, the [Daily Caller](#) (9/17) says Trump’s appearance “will come amidst concerns over North Korea’s missile program, continued unrest in Venezuela, increasing tensions between the US and Russia, the ongoing civil war in Syria, and a whole host of global issues.” He also “has a packed schedule” of meetings with foreign leaders.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/17, story 3, 2:55, Snow), Kelly O’Donnell also said the President has “a packed week ahead. [On Monday], the President meets with leaders of Israel and France,” and he’ll be on “center stage Tuesday, where his speech will praise values that bind democratic nations, while also calling for more urgent action.” Secretary of State Tillerson said Sunday, “He’s going to address these specific threats of North Korea, Iran, terrorism, global terrorism, and why it is important that all of us come together and confront these as a unified body.”

According to the [Korea Times](#) (9/17, Whan-Woo), Trump will hold also a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. Analysts said they expect the leaders to discuss “possible military options against North Korea.”

[The Hill](#) (9/17, Manchester) reports Trump, who once described the UN as “a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time,” is also expected to call for UN reform during his speech Tuesday. Senior level officials who “previewed themes” in Trump’s speech predicted his “call for change will set the tone for US involvement during a packed week of foreign policy.” Ambassador Haley told CNN’s “State of the Union,” “It is a new day at the UN. I think that the pleas he made in terms of trying to see change at the United Nations have been heard, and I think what we’ll do is see him respond to that.”

[Reuters](#) (9/17) reports Trump this week will try to “boost support for reforming” the UN, which he once called “a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time.” [The Hill](#) (9/17, Shelbourne) reports National Security Adviser McMaster told ABC’s “This Week” that Trump “is going to say the United Nations can’t be effective unless it reforms its bureaucracy and unless it achieves a higher degree of accountability for member states.”

Noting that the two have sometimes appeared at odds with each other, the [New York Times](#) (9/17, Sengupta) says a “crucial test” of Haley’s influence on the President “will come this week during Mr. Trump’s maiden visit to the United Nations, the organization he has repeatedly pilloried and whose very reason for being – international cooperation – he has dismissed with his promise of ‘only America first.’” According to the Times, “Many credit Ms. Haley for leading what Richard Gowan, a fellow at the European Council for Foreign Relations, called ‘the administration’s grudging but growing recognition of the UN’s significance.’”

***Aides Warn North Korea Will Be “Destroyed” If Threats Continue.*** Several members of the Administration appeared on Sunday morning shows where they addressed the threat posed by North Korea, among other topics. [USA Today](#) (9/17, Jackson) reports Trump’s top aides “warmed up for this week’s series of United Nations meetings by calling for more global pressure on North Korea.”

The [AP](#) (9/17, Superville) likewise says the President’s top advisers “said the isolated nation would face destruction unless it shelves its weapons programs and bellicose threats.” Secretary of State Tillerson “held out hope the North would return to the bargaining table,” though Ambassador Haley said the Security Council had “pretty much exhausted” all its options. National Security Adviser McMaster told [ABC’s This Week](#), Kim Jong-Un is “going to have to give up his nuclear weapons because the president has said he’s not going to tolerate this regime threatening the United States and our citizens with a nuclear weapon.” Asked if that meant Trump would launch a military strike, McMaster said “he’s been very clear about that, that all options are on the table.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/17, Lim) also reports McMaster’s remarks.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/17, John, Niquette) says Tillerson “made a rare appearance on a Sunday talk show” where he stressed that the US strategy is to pursue a “peaceful pressure campaign” based on “what he called the four ‘nos’: not seeking either regime change or collapse in North Korea, an accelerated re-unification of the Korean peninsula, or a reason to send in military forces.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Nakamura, Morello) reports Tillerson told On CBS’ “Face the Nation” Sunday morning, Tillerson said that if diplomacy fails to coerce North Korea to the negotiating table, “our military option will be the only one left. So all of this is backed up by a very strong and resolute military option. But be clear, we seek a peaceful solution to this.” Tillerson also warned on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) that as North Korea continues to test its weapons, the timetable is growing shorter and China will need to step up.

[AFP](#) (9/17) says Haley also “kept up the rhetorical pressure ahead” of the General

Assembly, asserting that if the North should pose a serious threat to the US or its allies, "North Korea will be destroyed." Haley told [CNN's State of the Union](#), "None of us want war. We wanted to be responsible and go to all diplomatic means to get their attention first. If that doesn't work, General Mattis will take care of it."

[Reuters](#) (9/17, Chiacu) reports that asked about President Trump's warning last month that the North Korean threat will be met with "fire and fury," Haley said, "It was not an empty threat. If North Korea keeps on with this reckless behavior, if the United States has to defend itself or defend its allies in any way, North Korea will be destroyed. And we all know that."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Richardson) and [Politico](#) (9/17, Meyer) similarly report Haley's comments, while the [New York Post](#) (9/17, Moore) reports that when asked about President Trump calling the new UN penalties "not a big deal," Haley said 90 percent of North Korea's trade has been cut off, further isolating the rogue regime. "We have economically strangled North Korea at this point and they have said as much. I think what the president's saying is, 'Look we've done all this, but we can do a whole lot more.' Everybody in the international community sees what a big deal it is."

Sen. Mike Rounds said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (9/17, Bartiromo) that President Trump "makes it very clear that there are military options, but that we would prefer to have a diplomatic solution that would be better for everyone." He added, "I think also he has to send a message to China that they do have a responsibility here and that they can help us to eliminate the possible use of military forces in the future based upon our own time frame and I hope that that's the message that he's able to convey."

Sen. John McCain said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (9/17, Dickerson), "This is one of the longest standing crises that we have faced. Three previous administrations have tried to make deals with North Korea in order to stop the steady progress they have been making towards the acquisition of nuclear...weapons and the means to deliver them." He added, "It seems to me China is very important and, yet we can't revisit that same old scenario we had before. So we're going to have to do a number of things, including incredible emphasis on missile defense in South Korea and our own missile defense system."

Julie Hirschfield Davis of the New York Times said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (9/17), "I think some of this is the standard diplomatic maneuvering you see. A diplomatic option, talks, negotiations really have no compelling case to be made for them unless there is a threat of something else if that doesn't yield something."

**US Seeking To Identify Sources Of North Korea's Rocket Fuel.** The [New York Times](#) (9/17, Broad, Sanger) reports that North Korea's recent missile launches were powered by "a rare, potent rocket fuel that American intelligence agencies believe initially came from China and Russia." The US is "scrambling to determine whether those two countries are still providing the ingredients for the highly volatile fuel and, if so, whether North Korea's supply can be interrupted, either through sanctions or sabotage." Some experts believe the US "should focus on the fuel, either to halt it, if possible, or to take advantage of its volatile properties to slow the North's program," but "it may well be too late. Intelligence officials believe that the North's program has advanced to the point where it is no longer as reliant on outside suppliers, and that it may itself be making the deadly fuel."

**Report: North Korea Building Nuclear Submarine.** The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Taylor) reports Japan's Sekai Nippo – citing an "informed" but unnamed "source familiar with the North Korean situation" – says North Korea is secretly building a nuclear-powered submarine. The newspaper "said the size of the nuclear-powered submarine under construction is unclear, but that the Kim Jong Un regime in Pyongyang hopes to have it deployed within three years." The Times notes that the claim could "not be independently verified" and US intelligence sources "could not immediately be reached for comment."

**Bank Of Korea: South Korea Halves Investments In China.** [Yonhap](#) (9/17, Dong) reports South Korean companies "have reduced their investments in China by nearly half this year as it has become difficult to do business there amid Beijing's growing economic retaliation against Korea's deployment of a US missile defense system." According to the Bank of Korea, South Korea's direct investment in China between January and July of this year was "down 43.7 percent from...the same period last year."

**South's Humanitarian Aid Offer To North "Largely Unwelcomed."** The [Korea Times](#) (9/17, Lee) reports South Korea's plan to offer \$8 million in humanitarian assistance to North Korea "is producing a frosty reaction at home and abroad due to its timing." According to the Times, "criticism is mounting over the timing of the announcement, which came only two days" after the UN Security Council adopted a new sanctions on Pyongyang. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

asked Moon Jae-in "to consider the timing of the proposed aid," and the US "also expressed considerable discomfort on the matter."

### **Media Analyses Consider How Trump's UN Debut Will Test His Agenda.**

On a day when there was limited media coverage of key Administration-related topics, a handful of analyses considered how President Trump's debut at the UN General Assembly this week will impact his international and domestic agenda.

Typical of the tone of the reporting was the [Washington Post](#) (9/16, Gearan, Nakamura), which states that although Trump had once said the UN "risked becoming an irrelevant salon," his first address to the world body "will be a test of his 'America First' agenda on global engagement, climate change and North Korea, but one topic – Iran – looms largest." According to the Post, the President's speech on Tuesday as well as his meetings with foreign leaders "are freighted with expectations that the U.S. leader wants to pull away from the 2015 U.N.-backed nuclear deal with Iran." Meanwhile, the Post adds that White House officials have "sketched out an ambitious series of events for Trump, including bilateral meetings Monday with French President Emmanuel Macron and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu."

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/16, Talev) similarly says the President "will embark on a whirlwind series of meetings next week at the United Nations General Assembly to make two big asks of the world: Stand with us against North Korea, and hold the line against Iran's nuclear program." Bloomberg states that "over the course of four days, beginning Monday, Trump will engage in a speed round of diplomacy that may test his patience for the notoriously factionalized, lethargic institution as well as his preference for one-on-one dealmaking in which the U.S. always holds the strongest hand." On Friday, Ambassador Haley told reporters, "Next week is not going to be short on topics" and he asserted foreign leaders "are all very anxious to hear what he has to say. ... I think that he will make quite an impact." Haley added that from her review of a draft of the President's address, "I personally think he slaps the right people, he hugs the right people, and he comes out with the U.S. being very strong in the end." The [AP](#) (9/16, Lemire) reports Haley added, "No one is going to grip and grin. ... The United States is going to work." National Security Adviser McMaster similarly said Trump "will urge all states to come together to address great dangers' facing the globe."

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (9/16, A1, Baker) reports McMaster in a preview of the week ahead said the President "would stress 'sovereignty and accountability'" and "will emphasize longstanding efforts to reform what many Republicans see as the sclerotic and inefficient United Nations organization," but the Times adds "aides would not say whether he would commit to the traditional level of American financing as Washington remains in arrears," with Haley saying only, "You'll have to wait and see." The Times details Trump's schedule and mentions Vice President Pence will stand in for a meeting with new Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi while "many will watch Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson, who has been overshadowed by Ms. Haley, to see if he has influence or is on the way out."

While "the spotlight will be on... Trump and France's new leader, Emmanuel Macron, who will both be making their first appearance at the General Assembly," the [AP](#) (9/16, Lederer) reports, "it will be North Korea, which Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calls 'the most dangerous crisis that we face today,' that will be most carefully watched." According to the AP, "No official event addressing Pyongyang's relentless campaign to develop nuclear weapons capable of hitting the United States is on the U.N. agenda, but it is expected to be the No. 1 issue for most leaders." The AP adds "not far behind will be the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, victims of what Guterres calls a campaign of ethnic cleansing." However, the AP says world leaders will also address the threat posed by terrorism and climate change, as well as a US-led "declaration on U.N. reforms" backed by over 100 other countries, "but Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said Friday that 'we are not sure we will sign this declaration.'"

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 6, 1:05, Welker) Kelly O'Donnell similarly admitted that "the stakes are already high" for the President, whose "message will be serious, saying that [North Korea] is a global issue, not an American-only problem." O'Donnell added Trump will "host a high-profile lunch with the leaders of Japan and South Korea, whose nations are most vulnerable in all of this, and Ambassador Haley says recent sanctions need some more time to determine if they can have any impact on the regime."

**Politico Analysis: Trump's UN Speech "May Provide Some Affirmation" For Sessions.** When President Trump speaks with world leaders this week about "overhauling the United Nations, it may provide some affirmation for a struggling member of the president's team: Jeff Sessions," [Politico](#) (9/16, Palmeri) reports, as "while the attorney general's relationship with his boss has been fraught since Sessions recused himself from the Russia probe, it was the former Alabama



senator's conviction that the New York real estate developer was the only person who could successfully modernize the U.N. that originally brought them together more than a decade ago." Politico recounted Sessions "invited Trump to testify before a Senate subcommittee in 2005 as Congress was considering whether to extend a \$1.2 billion loan to the UN for modernizing its decrepit headquarters on Manhattan's East River." At the time, "Trump – then riding high on his 'Apprentice' fame – told Congress to let him take on the UN renovation rather than making a loan."

**US Reiterates Position On Paris Climate Accord Unchanged.** After representatives from roughly 30 nations, including the US, China, and Canada, met in Montreal "to discuss the most-sweeping accord to date to protect the environment," European Union's climate chief, Miguel Arias Canete, suggested that the US is "willing to re-engage under the Paris agreement but they want to check some of the terms under which they agreed to participate previously," [Bloomberg News](#) (9/17, Krukowska) reports. Canete added, "We assume that means that the U.S. will revisit at some time the targets put forward by the previous administration." Canete's assertion "was quickly denied by the White House." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted, "Our position on the Paris agreement has not changed. @POTUS has been clear, US withdrawing unless we get pro-America terms."

Kelly O'Donnell of [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 7, 0:55, Welker) reported that at the UN General Assembly this week, French President Emmanuel Macron will push "other leaders this week to begin to implement the" Paris climate agreement. However, O'Donnell added "so far, other world leaders say the time for negotiating is long past, so that will increase pressure on President Trump."

**Wife Of Princeton Student Imprisoned In Iran Renews Call For Diplomatic Resolution.** Hua Qu, the wife of former Princeton University student and naturalized US citizen Xiyue Wang, discussed in detail with [Reuters](#) (9/16, Ax, Torbati) her husband's espionage conviction and 10-year prison sentence in Iran. The interview – Qu's first extensive one since Wang's arrest 13 months ago – signaled "a shift in strategy for those closest to Wang," as "Princeton and the Obama and Trump administrations kept Wang's detention confidential in hopes of brokering a release on humanitarian grounds." Qu is now "speaking out to encourage Iran and the United States to resolve her husband's case diplomatically," potentially at the United Nations General Assembly. A State Department spokeswoman said of Wang's case, "This administration is redoubling efforts to bring home all Americans unjustly detained abroad."

### **Trump Pledges US Support To UK After Terror Attack, Pushes For Expanding Travel Ban.**

ISIS has claimed responsibility for the bombing of a London metro station early Friday morning, though local police expressed skepticism. The terror attack was covered as the lead story on all of the network and cable news outlets, which focused heavily on President Trump's remarks citing the attack as justification for his travel restrictions and British Prime Minister Theresa May's subsequent criticism of his comments. Reporting also considered the threat of additional, imminent attacks, as the UK raised the threat level to "critical" in the wake of the bombing.

The [New York Times](#) (9/15, A1, Landler, Haberman) reports on its front page that "Trump seized on a terrorist attack in London on Friday to promote his ban on travel to the United States by Muslims and, in the process, ran afoul of Britain by claiming without evidence that the assailants had been 'in the sights' of the British police." The Times adds that in his "fusillade of early morning tweets, Mr. Trump cited the chaotic scene in a London Underground station as Exhibit A for his hard-line policies." The Times labels this as "the latest episode in which Mr. Trump was at odds with Britain over sensitive security issues."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, story 2, 2:15, Holt) White House correspondent Hallie Jackson similarly reported that "hours after the explosion in London," the President issued an "eruption of tweets," which [Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey) reports started with a denunciation of the attack. Trump [said](#), "Another attack in London by a loser terrorist. These are sick and demented people who were in the sights of Scotland Yard. Must be proactive!" He [continued](#), "Loser terrorists must be dealt with in a much tougher manner. The internet is their main recruitment tool which we must cut off & use better!"

However, [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:09 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said that he also seized "on the incident to push his reposed travel ban, targeting merely all refugees as well as people from six Muslim-majority countries, a ban that is facing several legal challenges." [Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey) reports Trump's comments comes in advance of "a key Supreme Court hearing next month on the constitutionality of his executive order on the ban."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Wagner, Zapotosky) reports Trump [said](#), "The travel ban into



the United States should be far larger, tougher and more specific-but stupidly, that would not be politically correct!" The Post adds the President later "took credit for progress by his administration in combating the Islamic State terrorist group, asserting that more had been done in the past nine months than under Obama's eight years in office." The [Washington Times](#) (9/15, Persons) reports Trump [tweeted](#), "We have made more progress in the last nine months against ISIS than the Obama Administration has made in 8 years. Must be proactive & nasty!"

According to [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump, "it didn't take President Trump long to turn Friday morning's terrorist attack in Britain to his political advantage." Bump added, "This is not the first time that we've seen this pattern from Trump." He continued that the President is "frequently...quick to ascribe incidents of violence to terrorism, particularly acts that he believes to have been committed by Islamist terrorists. He is much slower, however, to weigh in on incidents in which Muslims or his political opponents have been targeted."

The [AP](#) (9/15, Lucey) similarly contended that "Trump's rapid reaction Friday contrasts with a statement he made defending his muted response to the violence in Charlottesville last month, when he said he wanted to ensure he had the facts and not make a 'quick statement.'" In a separate [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Bump) analysis, Bump said the "early-morning tweets Friday had a common theme: Any enemies must be punished." Bump added that the enemies highlighted on Friday "included the perpetrator of a terrorist attack on London's subway which, happily, didn't result in any fatalities," as well as ISIS and the television network ESPN.

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (9/15, Miller) reports that speaking to reporters at the White House Rose Garden later on Friday, Trump "called the London subway bombing 'a terrible thing' and repeated his call a tougher travel ban to keep terrorists out of the U.S." He asserted, "It keeps going and going, and we have to be very smart and we have to be very, very tough – perhaps we're not nearly tough enough. ... We have to be smarter." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Trump telling reporters, "America and our allies will never be intimidated." He continued, "We will defend our people, our nations, and our civilization from all who dare to threaten our way of life. This includes the regime of North Korea which has once again shown its utter contempt for its neighbors and for the entire world community."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported National Security Adviser McMaster, "later trying to explain what Trump meant," told reporters: "What the President is communicating is that obviously all of our law enforcement efforts are focused on this terrorist threat for years. He didn't mean anything beyond that."

Leading the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, lead story, 2:25, Mason), Correspondent Charlie D'Agata reported Trump's comments "drew a sharp rebuke from" the British Prime Minister. May told George Stephanopoulos of [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/15, story 3, 1:35, Muir), "I don't think it's helpful for anyone to speculate on what is an ongoing investigation." She added, "The police and the security services are doing the work necessary to discover the full circumstances of this cowardly attack that's taken place, and to identify all those who are responsible." [AFP](#) (9/15, Beatty) reports Trump's comments were also "described as 'unhelpful' by London's Metropolitan Police, as well as by Nick Timothy, May's former chief of staff." Timothy [tweeted](#), "True or not – and I'm sure he doesn't know – this is so unhelpful from leader of our ally and intelligence partner." According to AFP, "after his tweets, and with ties apparently under strain, Trump spoke with May to convey "his sympathies and prayers" for victims of the London attack, the White House said in a statement."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Baier) White House correspondent John Roberts reported that a spokesperson for May said Trump called the Prime Minister "to offer his condolences over this morning's cowardly attack in London" while [Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey, Brice) reports the White House said that in their phone call, the President "expressed support for those injured and 'pledged to continue close collaboration with the United Kingdom to stop attacks worldwide targeting innocent civilians and to combat extremism.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (9/15, Ross, Penny) reports that during the call, May "complained directly" to Trump over his tweets, "according to a U.K. government official familiar with the conversation."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:13 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Rep. Ruben Gallego said "the fact that it wasn't a suicide bomber should tell us a lot. Also, it kind of tells you about the nature of what is happening with ISIS. ISIS is losing the territorial boundaries that it used to claim under its big caliphate. So now in order to have relevance within the, you know, the terrorist world or at least those who are drawn towards terrorism, whether it is funding or to go fight, they are trying to export their method of battle and war through more terrorism unless the actual holding of territory. And the way to fight this, obviously, is going to be with greater integration of our

intelligence systems, both American and British, as well as the greater European in general." Gallego urged US intelligence officials to also work more closely with Muslim communities, which he argued have been instrumental in thwarting previous attempts on American soil.

Sen. Ben Cardin told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:12 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that whether ISIS did in fact orchestrate the attack is unclear at this point. He added that the attack is "not the typical MO that we've seen in terrorist attacks in Europe; however, we'll wait to see exactly what the circumstances are. We know that as ISIS' caliphate, its geographical territory, is shrinking, that there is a lot more interest in what's happening in this type of terrorist episodes. So ISIS will claim credit, even if they had nothing to do with it." He stressed the need "to share intelligence information to try to prevent these types of things from occurring." Cardin added that he is "absolutely" concerned about the possibility of future, imminent attacks both in Britain and potentially the US. Cardin added that Trump's remarks on the attack were "not appropriate, and the fact that the National Security Adviser had to try to explain what the President meant, meant he shouldn't have said what he did."

Former State Department spokesman John Kirby told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:41 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that while it may be "too early to say whether" Trump's remarks "hurt, it certainly didn't help any and it was inappropriate. This was hours after, not even hours after this, when he tweeted that," forcing May "to respond. And she was right to slap him back for that" because "speculating out there is certainly not helping authorities on the ground trying to solve this and to keep the city safe."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:31 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) chief political analyst Gloria Borger said she believes Trump, in his comments, implied "that maybe Scotland Yard wasn't doing its job, because they knew who this was." Former CIA counterterrorism official Philip Mudd said Trump's remarks that "we need to be proactive" is the part that is most insulting to British intelligence officers. He commented, "The British Security Service and British police are far advanced in terms of intelligence and policing. What that says to an intelligence officer is, you're not as good as you should be. They're better than we are. A little humility would help there."

**Explosion On London Metro Train Injures At Least 29.** Reporting from Parson Green Tube Station, the location of the attack, senior international correspondent Matthew Chance of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported that the "device exploded at 8:20 local time on that metro station – tube train, as we call them here – at the height of rush hour. There were scenes of panic as people tried to escape the carriages onto the platform outside." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:05 p.m. EDT, Baier) reported witnesses described "a wall of fire from the homemade bomb," which elicited "panic" on the "crowded train." Correspondent Kitty Logan said the device did not fully detonate, potentially "sparing many lives."

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Mancini, Kantchev, Douglas) reports 29 people were injured in the attack, which a front-page [New York Times](#) (9/15, A1, Chan, Kingsley, Yeginsu) article says "was the fifth terrorist attack in Britain this year and the first to hit London at its most vulnerable point – mass transit – since the 2005 bombings that killed 52."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) terrorism analyst Paul Cruickshank reported ISIS released two statements – "one from its affiliate news agency and one from ISIS proper" – that both claimed responsibility for the attack. One statement said "it was a detachment from the Islamic State that carried it out, and another saying it was soldiers of the caliphate that did this and planted multiple devices." He clarified that no evidence confirms "that there were multiple devices that were planted, and ISIS really hasn't offered any evidence to back up its claim that it had responsibility for this attack."

Leading [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/15, lead story, 3:05, Muir), correspondent Ian Pannell commented, "It takes a lot to spook people here, but the news that ISIS say that they've planted bombs across the city will surely mean that people will sleep less well tonight." Leading [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, lead story, 2:30, Holt), senior national security analyst Juan Zarate remarked, "Though the attack was relatively ineffective, it is part of a series of quickening attacks in London that not only worries officials in London and the UK, but also in Europe and in the United States."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (9/15, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Chance reported investigators believe that the perpetrator or perpetrators had attempted to construct "a sophisticated bomb" because it "had a timer on it. We've seen that very rarely." He added the device was also "designed to cause maximum damage and mass casualties, and it used this highly explosive substance called TATP," which has been used in "a host of other attacks." Chance explained, "One of the reasons for that is it can be easily manufactured from normal household products like household bleach that can be readily bought at supermarkets. That's what makes it even more

difficult for the authorities to pin down and try to trace who it was." [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (9/15, 6:03 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Chance said British authorities said "they're making excellent progress in their investigation, but the details of that progress, they're not disclosing to us. They say because of the nature of their investigation, there is a heavy covert element. So we're still waiting for news this evening on any suspects or any arrests that may be made."

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/15, Ross-Thomas, Penny) reports May in a televised statement "announced the U.K. terror threat level has been raised to critical, its highest level," following the assessment by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) "that further attacks may be imminent." [Reuters](#) (9/15, Holton, Schomberg) reports May said that in the days ahead, "military personnel will replace police officers on guard duties at certain protected sites that are not accessible to the public." The [AP](#) (9/15, Lawless, Katz) reports May called the deployment of military troops to help the police a "proportionate and sensible step."

In the lead [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) story, Wolf Blitzer reported London police have categorized the attack as "a terrorist incident," and have launched a manhunt "with hundreds of detectives backed by Britain's intelligence service" to locate suspects. The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, A1, Booth, Adam) says in a front-page article that "as of Friday evening, authorities had given no details on possible suspects," though British media "said that investigators had images of a suspect from closed-circuit television." In the lead story for the second hour of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), correspondent Brian Todd said London Police Commissioner Cressida Dick announced the department has "received about 77 images from the public, but they are pleading with people to come forward with more photos and videos to help them piece together what happened and who is responsible."

**British Police Arrest Suspected Knifeman Near Birmingham Tube Station.** [Reuters](#) (9/15, Pitas) cites the [Birmingham \(UK\) Mail](#) in reporting British police on Friday "arrested a suspected knifeman near Birmingham New Street Station."

**UK Officials Aware Of Threat To Public Spaces, But Struggle To Secure Mass Transit Services.** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Gross) reports that Britain's National Risk Register on Thursday cautioned it was highly plausible that a terrorist attack could target crowded public spaces, but the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Wall, Macdonald) in a separate article reports that despite spending decades in an attempt to secure mass transit services, the UK and governments worldwide continue to face challenges in protecting such vulnerable infrastructure.

**Major US Cities Enhance Security On Mass Transit Services, Tourist Attractions.** "The bombing of a packed London commuter train on Friday prompted officials to beef up security on New York City's subway system, major commuter rail networks, at airports and other locations," [Reuters](#) (9/15, Szekely, Dobuzinskis) reports, and "the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which operates mass-transit lines in New York City and the Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North commuter lines, said it was closely monitoring the investigation of the fiery blast that injured 29 people in a West London underground station." In a statement, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo "said...he had also directed authorities to increase security at airports, bridges, tunnels and other sensitive locations across the state."

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (9/15, story 2, 0:55, Muir) Linsey Davis reported that the New York City Police Department also said Friday it is "not taking any chances in the event of a copycat. Unfortunately, they know this drill well and once again they are beefing up security. That, of course, includes bomb-sniffing dogs, increased police presence, heavy weapons teams. They say there have been no direct threats to New York City, but they're also monitoring intelligence and asking people to remain vigilant. The governor is calling for increased security at bridges, tunnels, area airports, and mass transportation. New York City is, of course, not alone." According to Davis, the Los Angeles Police Department is similarly "increasing security on buses, on trains, and at major tourist attractions. DC police say they're telling riders to remain vigilant."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, story 2, 2:05, Mason), NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller commented, "In New York, we live with the reality that we are the most-targeted city in the United States by terrorist plots. We have a great relationship with the Joint Terrorism Task Force, our FBI partners, and together we've managed to thwart almost 100 percent of the plots that have been levied against us since 9/11/2001. We don't kid ourselves, though: There's no such thing as total protection in a free society." He added that the threat is "something of great concern to us, something that we follow every day, and something that we believe we've prepared for as well as we can."

### **Trump Warns Of "Effective And Overwhelming" Response To North Korean Threat.**

President Trump on Friday vowed an "effective and overwhelming" response to North Korea over

the launch of a missile towards Japan. While focused on the UK terror attack, the network newscasts nonetheless devoted six and a half minutes combined to highlighting the tough talk from Trump, Defense Secretary Mattis, Secretary of State Tillerson, National Security Adviser McMaster, and Ambassador Haley.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/15, story 4, 0:45, Muir) reported the White House is talking "tough" after "North Korea's latest provocation," as Administration officials indicated "they are still giving diplomacy and sanctions a chance, but adding the US does have other plans at the ready." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported the President arrived in New Jersey "just a few minutes ago," but before he left Joint Base Andrews, Trump addressed "this North Korea threat."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (9/15, 5:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Athena Jones reported, "Speaking at Joint Base Andrews just before departing for New Jersey, the President said America's military options are robust. He called them both effective and overwhelming, should they be needed to respond to threats from North Korea. He said America and her allies will never be intimidated, and that North Korea has once again shown its utter contempt for its neighbors and the entire world community."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:11 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump, who when asked whether he is "running out of diplomatic options" responded, "No." At Joint Base Andrews, the President "talked up the country's military might." Said Trump, "When our enemies hear the F-35 engines, when they're roaring overhead, their souls will tremble and they will know the day of reckoning has arrived." The [AP](#) (9/15, Superville) reports Trump said the North Korean regime "has once again shown its 'utter contempt' for its neighbors and for the entire world community" and asserted he is "more confident than ever, after seeing the military hardware on base, that U.S. options for addressing the threat from North Korea 'are both effective and overwhelming.'"

[AFP](#) (9/15) reports McMaster told a White House briefing on Friday that Trump "will host a lunch with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korea's Moon Jae-in on Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly." McMaster said the "most recent launch demonstrates...this is one of the world's most urgent and dangerous security problems." However, according to AFP, "McMaster sent a mixed message Friday, insisting that the US retained a 'military option' in dealing with North Korea even while calling on 'everyone to do everything we can to address the global problem short of war.'"

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:49 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast McMaster asserting, "For those who have said and are commenting on the lack of a military option: There is a military option. Now, it's not what we would prefer to do." The [AP](#) (9/15, Riechmann) reports McMaster warned the US has "run out of road" to deal with North Korea while [Reuters](#) (9/15, Mason) reports he conceded the US "was approaching the limit of what sanctions and diplomacy can accomplish in terms of reigning in North Korea's weapons program."

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Sonne, Wong) reports Ambassador Haley hinted the US was willing to consider military solutions. In video footage broadcast by [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:43 p.m. EDT, Baier), Ambassador Haley warned, "What we are seeing is they continue to be provocative, they continue to be reckless. And at that point, there's not a whole lot the Security Council is going to be able to do from here when you've cut 90 percent of the trade and 30 percent of the oil. So, having said that, I have no problem kicking it to General Mattis, because I think he has plenty of options."

According to [Reuters](#) (9/15, Stewart), Mattis said Friday that he believes the latest launch "will further North Korea's isolation, diplomatic and economic isolation, because more and more nations are realizing there's simply no collaboration [by Pyongyang] with the international community."

[Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey, Mitchell) reports Secretary of State Tillerson on Friday "said...that North Korea's continuing missile tests threaten the entire world and stressed the United States was working closely with regional allies Japan and South Korea on the problem." Speaking to the Community of Democracies, Tillerson said, "In East Asia, an increasingly aggressive and isolated regime in North Korea threatens democracies in South Korea, Japan, and more importantly, and more recently, has expanded those threats to the United States, endangering the entire world." Tillerson added, "We first look to our regional allies South Korea and Japan. By working with them and other democratic partners, we continue to build consensus at the United Nations Security Council to create a united international front that upholds our values and strives to make us safer." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:07 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Tillerson asserting, "North Korea is now a global threat, and requires a global response from all nations."

[Reuters](#) (9/15, Miles) reports US disarmament ambassador Robert Wood at a news



conference in Geneva on Friday said the Administration “wants to exhaust every diplomatic option on North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs, and to see loopholes in the North Korean sanctions regime closed.” Wood asserted, “Sanctions have not had a real opportunity to bite as hard as we would like them to bite, and that comes from the fact that they have not been fully implemented.” He added, “We are not taking any options off the table but...we are pursuing the diplomatic track right now ... We want to exhaust all diplomatic options.”

However, [Politico](#) (9/15, McCaskill) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham on Friday criticized the Administration’s “response to Kim Jong Un’s saber-rattling.” In a series of tweets, Graham [said](#), “Clearly North Korea does not give a damn about UN sanctions or tough talk.” He [added](#), “It is time to more forcefully back up our diplomatic efforts with the threat of a credible military option.” Graham [continued](#), “North Korea believes there is no downside to pushing the envelope regarding their missile and nuclear programs.” He [concluded](#), “It is up to the Trump Administration and the world to make North Korea believe otherwise.”

Rep. Adam Kinzinger said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:22 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that because North Korea appears to have the technological capabilities to strike Guam, “it is a game changer.” He said the US and its allies have shown “a good, professional restraint for these massive provocations,” but that “it’s worrisome as they perfect their ICBM technology” and “are now within the continental United States. There are still key things they need to work out. But the pace they’ve been showing of development” suggests “they’re probably not far from having a completely workable, reentry-available ICBM.” When asked whether the US should shoot down North Korean missiles, Kinzinger said that “it may come to that point,” in large part because Pyongyang has “made the threat” against Japan, Guam, and the continental US.

[Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey) reports a Gallup poll of 1,022 “US adults” (9/6-9/10) released Friday “found that 58 percent said they would favor military action against North Korea if the United States cannot accomplish its goals by more peaceful means first.” However, Reuters says the response “was largely split along political party lines. Among Republicans, 82 percent would back military action compared with 37 percent among Democrats. Among political independents, 56 backed such action.”

**UN Secretary-General, Security Council Condemn North Korea Missile Launch.** [Reuters](#) (9/15, Nichols) reports UN Secretary-General António Guterres in a statement “condemned North Korea’s missile launch over Japan on Friday and said he would discuss the situation at the United Nations General Assembly’s gathering next week.” He called upon the leaders of the DPRK “to cease further testing, comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions, and allow space to explore the resumption of sincere dialogue on denuclearization.”

In addition, the [AP](#) (9/15, Lederer, Tong-Hyung) reports the United Nations Security Council “strongly condemned the North’s ‘highly provocative’ ballistic missile test.” According to the AP, the Security Council “accused North Korea of undermining regional peace and security by launching its latest missile over Japan and said its nuclear and missile tests ‘have caused grave security concerns around the world’ and threaten all 193 U.N. member states.”

**Kim: North Korea Seeking Military “Equilibrium” With US.** [Reuters](#) (9/15, Kim, Nichols) reports that according to the North Korean state news agency KCNA, Kim Jong Un said his regime’s “final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S. and make the U.S. rulers dare not talk about military option.” Kim additionally said, “The combat efficiency and reliability of Hwasong-12 were thoroughly verified,” and asserted “the North’s goal of completing its nuclear force had ‘nearly reached the terminal.’”

David Martin of the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, story 3, 2:15, Mason) reported, “Until now, North Korea had tested its intermediate- and intercontinental-range missiles from fixed launchpads. This time, for the first time, an intermediate-range missile was launched from a mobile transporter, a significant development since it enables Kim Jong Un to fire a long-range weapon with little or no warning. In this case, though, spy satellites had seen the missile being rolled into position at an airfield near Pyongyang well before the actual launch, as if Kim was deliberately trying to avoid catching the US off guard.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:50 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) correspondent Will Ripley said “reports breaking right now” citing North Korea’s state-run KCNA outlet are claiming “that Kim Jong-un, the North Korean supreme leader, presided over this missile launch of what we have already believed to be a Hwasong-12. KCNA apparently confirming now their intermediate range missile was fired from the Pyongyang Sunan airport. They fired it right from their capitol, 2,300 miles over Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido.” He said the range is the longest ever fired from North Korea, leaving Guam “easily within striking range.” Clearly, Ripley said, “this is a strong message of defiance,” and “North Korea feels this is a reliable missile to hit the military targets in

South Korea, Japan, and Guam.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, story 3, 2:20, Holt) chief foreign correspondent Richard Engel reported, “It was an intermediate-range ballistic missile launched around 6:30 a.m. local time. It traveled 2,300 miles over northern Japan, landing in the Pacific Ocean. The US military said it posed no threat to American territory; Guam is far to the south, which Kim Jong Un has threatened before. South Korea responded to the launch by firing two missiles of its own into the sea, but at the same distance they’d have to travel to hit the North Korean launch site. Hours later, the UN convened an emergency session just days after imposing new sanctions watered down by Russia and China.”

***China Deflects Blame For North Korea’s Belligerence, Criticizes South Korea.*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Wong) reports that within hours of the missile launch, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry condemned North Korea but insisted Beijing lacks the ability to solve the crisis while a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Browne) analysis says that Chinese leaders have instead been portraying South Korea as the party responsible for North Korea’s actions because they are afraid the US will one day turn Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (Thaad) against its military.

However, Ben Tracy of the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, story 4, 1:10, Mason) acknowledged, “This idea that China can somehow call up Kim Jong Un and just tell him to cut it out is not realistic. There is not a good relationship between these two countries right now. And if you need proof of that, there is no picture of Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping, and that is because the two have never met.” However, he added China “does not want to see the regime collapse, mainly because it does not want a united Korea that would be aligned with the West. That could mean US military on its border.”

***Japan Reevaluates Military As Aid Dispute With South Korea Intensifies.*** According to a front-page [New York Times](#) (9/15, A1, Rich) article, Japanese officials “who may have considered intercepting the missile faced two immediate constraints – the country’s missile defenses are limited, and the Constitution limits military action only to instances of self-defense.” The Times reports these “constraints have weighed heavily on the debate in recent weeks over how Japan should be responding to the North’s rapidly advancing nuclear program, including what role it should play as an American ally and to what extent it should upgrade its armed forces.”

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (9/15, Sang-Hun) reports Japan and South Korea “differed on Friday over providing humanitarian aid to North Korea’s malnourished children and pregnant women, hours after that country launched a ballistic missile over Japan.” While Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in in a phone call “shar[ed] their condemnation of North Korea’s latest missile test and vow[ed] to work together to bring about more sanctions against the country, Mr. Moon’s office said,” Abe “took issue with South Korea’s plan to donate \$8 million to two United Nations humanitarian programs in North Korea. He asked Mr. Moon to reconsider the timing of the aid.” In an analysis, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Martin, Jun) reports that while Moon has broke from his recent predecessors and pushed for peace talks with North Korea, his initiatives have been unsuccessful so far.

***Russia: North Korea’s Violated UN Resolutions With Missile Launch.*** [Reuters](#) (9/15, Lowe) cites the Interfax news agency in reporting a spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry “said on Friday that North Korea’s latest missile test violated United Nations Security Council resolutions.” Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (9/15, Lowe) reports the Kremlin in a statement Friday said Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron spoke by phone the latest missile launch, in which they both “condemned Pyongyang’s ‘provocative’ actions, which risk leading to ‘irreversible consequences,’ the Kremlin said.”

***Former US Official: North Korean Threat A Way Of Life For South Korea.*** Sue Mi Terry, a former CIA analyst and Korea director at the National Security Council, says in a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Terry) op-ed that while the US panics over North Korea’s intent to expand its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, Seoul has remained surprisingly calm as it bolsters its military. Terry explains that South Koreans have lived with the North Korean threat for decades – unlike the fear of President Trump dragging their nation into a war, which could threaten US-South Korean relations.

## **White House: Trump Supports Making Deal On DACA, Provided Border Security, Wall Are Included.**

[CNN’s Situation Room](#)’s (9/15, 5:12 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Athena Jones reported President Trump “may be signaling his willingness” to work with Democratic lawmakers to protect “young people brought to the United States illegally as children” under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, “but the move is causing a stir among some conservative



supporters." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters that Trump "supports making an agreement on DACA, but that would have to include massive border security and interior enforcements. The President continues to push for those things. He's still one hundred percent committed to the wall, and we're going to be laying out what our specific priorities and principles are in that front in the next seven to ten days."

White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:23 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that a dinner between Trump and House Minority Leader Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer on the matter "was very cordial," and even "jovial, but there's not a deal in place. There was a beginning of a conversation in place." Short added that the President and White House believe former President Obama's "ruling was in fact unlawful, which was why it was overturned. Obama did that because he was frustrated Congress didn't act on it. So the President is trying to pull the sides together to say, we need to solve this problem." Short added Trump "feels that these are 800,000 people who came to the United States of no fault of their own who are productive and working in America's society. He wants to find a solution for them."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:37 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), political analyst Ryan Lizza said Trump "says he wants them to stay, which is not the opinion of some other people in the Administration, so that's a clear indication that that's the White House's view on that right now. Jeff Sessions doesn't believe that. And I thought he was very expansive in how he wanted a deal. There weren't a lot of red lines being drawn in terms of what could be in a potential immigration deal. It sounded like they are very much in deal-making mode. They wanted to put all the White House's immigration proposals out on the table and see if they can come up with some broader package."

Chief political analyst Gloria Borger of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:40 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said details of the purported agreement on DACA – specifically, whether DREAMers will have a path to citizenship – are unclear beyond "the fact that they have agreed in principle." Senior political analyst Mark Preston said if DREAMers "do not get citizenship and they're allowed to stay in this country, what we have effectively done is created another class of people, and we have created a class system at that point. That is so un-American in many ways. I just don't understand how you can allow somebody to stay here but say you can't become a citizen."

**Trump Tweets That "Chain Migration" Cannot Be Included In Immigration Legislation.** The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that President Trump "is reiterating his support for a plan that would curb legal immigration and shift the nation toward a system that would place an emphasis on merit and skills over family ties." Trump tweeted, "CHAIN MIGRATION cannot be allowed to be part of any legislation on Immigration!" The tweet comes amid discussions between Trump and congressional Democrats on a deal to preserve protections for DACA recipients. [Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey) says that "chain migration" is a term used "to refer to citizens or permanent residents sponsoring relatives or the clustering of certain immigrants in the same areas."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:13 p.m. EDT, Baier) reported that the tweet came amid "some of the GOP pushback." Despite the uproar, correspondent Bret Baier said, "the deal looks like it's moving forward."

**White House: "Priorities And Principles" For Immigration To Come In Seven To 10 Days.** [Politico](#) (9/15, Conway) reports that press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced on Friday that the White House "plans to lay out its 'specific priorities and principles' for an immigration deal in seven to 10 days." After Schumer and Pelosi said a deal had been reached to protect former DACA recipients, President Trump "first denied that he had reached a deal with them, but later acknowledged they had discussed such an arrangement." The article also quotes Sen. Bernie Sanders, who said that Trump is "focused on making sure that in the efforts of these ongoing conversations between both Democrats and Republicans that we deliver on responsible immigration reform," but that a deal had not been finalized.

**Ryan: Bipartisan Majority Exists To Protect DACA Recipients.** The [AP](#) (9/15, Daly) reports House Speaker Ryan said Friday that "there's a sweet spot" in Congress for majority support to protect current DACA recipients, following a statement by President Trump that he was "fairly close" to an agreement with congressional Democrats on the issue. Ryan said that any such legislation would be paired with border-strengthening measures, and that "While we do this [legislative fix for young immigrants] we have a border problem we've got to fix." Ryan cautioned that Democrats "will have to stomach" that an immigration bill is likely to be perceived as a political victory for Trump, adding that it would be "a real mistake" for Democrats to oppose the bill simply because they dislike Trump."

**NYTimes: Trump's Compassionate Deal Not "A Pivot Toward Principles."** A [New York Times](#)

(9/15) editorial considers whether the deal President Trump reached with Democratic lawmakers this week “to enshrine into law protections for young illegal immigrants brought to the United States as children” signals “the arrival of a new, compassionate, capable” Trump. The Times laments, “Sadly, probably not,” because the President “is often transactional and capricious,” and thus “there must be an angle.” The Times concludes in warning, “No one should cheer Mr. Trump’s latest moves as a pivot toward principles. So far, his main operating principle seems to be service to himself.”

### **Cassidy: “48 Or 49” Republicans Back Plan To Replace ACA With Block Grants.**

The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Howell) reports that with time running out to replace the ACA with just 50 votes, Senators pushing a plan to replace the law with state block grants “are making real noise...insisting they are just one or two votes shy and that President Trump can nudge their last-gasp bill to victory.” Sen. Bill Cassidy, who co-wrote the legislation with Sen. Lindsey Graham said Friday, “We are thinking that we can get this done by Sept. 30.” Cassidy “said his informal whip count stands at ‘48 or 49’ Republican votes.” However, Sen. Rand Paul “announced Friday that he is staunchly opposed to the bill, lengthening the odds of success.” Democrat leaders, meanwhile, “are rallying Obamacare’s defenders to stamp out a revived threat to their signature law.” In a [tweet](#) over the weekend, Senate Minority Leader Schumer wrote, “Trumpcare is back & Senate GOP has until Sept 30 to pass their bill. ... We need your voices more than ever!”

[Politico](#) (9/17, Everett, Dawsey) says Senate Majority Leader McConnell and GOP leaders “are seriously considering voting” on the proposal, according to “congressional and Trump administration sources said.” While a final decision has not been made, McConnell “has told his caucus that if the bill...has the support of at least 50 of the 52 GOP senators, he will bring it to the floor, Graham and Cassidy say.” Politico says the move “would be a last-ditch attempt to repeal Obamacare before the GOP’s power to pass health care legislation through a party-line vote in the Senate expires on Sept. 30.”

E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/17) column that before “supporters of universal health coverage get all wrapped up debating a single-payer system,” they must focus on the Graham-Cassidy proposal, which he describes as a “dire threat” to the ACA. The measure, Dionne argues, “would be disastrous” and in some ways is “even worse than earlier repeal measures, which at least kept some of the structure of Obamacare’s subsidies in place.”

### **McMaster: Administration Considering A “Tougher” Travel Ban.**

On [ABC’s This Week](#) (9/17), National Security Adviser McMaster said the Administration is “looking at” a tougher travel ban. [USA Today](#) (9/17, Jackson) reports “McMaster echoed a Trump tweet calling for a tougher travel ban into the United States, saying ‘this is something we’re looking at.’” The [New York Post](#) (9/17, Schultz) reports that Trump on Sunday “retweeted himself in calling for another travel ban.” The [tweet](#) said, “The travel ban into the United States should be far larger, tougher and more specific-but stupidly, that would not be politically correct!”

[The Hill](#) (9/17, Shelbourne) reports McMaster said the travel ban is “a first step” toward better security screening of people entering the US. The [Daily Caller](#) (9/17) says that when asked if the Administration will propose a tougher travel ban, McMaster “didn’t give a straight ‘yes’ or ‘no’ in his response, but stated, ‘Well, if you can’t screen people to know who’s coming into your country then you shouldn’t allow people from that country to travel.’” [Newsweek](#) (9/17, Sinclair) reports McMaster “refused to rule out the administration considering a new travel ban.”

Meanwhile, [CNN](#) (9/17, Kenny) says McMaster also “echoed” another Trump tweet about terrorists’ use of the Internet for recruiting. McMaster told ABC, “Because of the strength of these terrorist organizations – why this is a greater danger than ever – is, first of all, their ability to communicate, to connect what would otherwise be disconnected cells in other places in the world.”

***WPost Argues Against Further Reducing Refugee Resettlement.*** A [Washington Post](#) (9/17) editorial says that after having cut “refugee resettlement by more than half, compared with the Obama administration, officials close to Mr. Trump are pushing for a further draconian reduction, to levels not seen since the Cold War.” If Trump backs the proposal, the Post argues, “the message to those fleeing persecution and violence would be to shelter in place – any place, as long as it’s not the United States.” The Post says the Trump Administration “is waging a multi-front crusade against legal as well as illegal immigration,” and adds that by “rolling back refugee admissions to levels negligible when measured against the need, the administration would accelerate Washington’s retreat from the global stage and inaugurate a new age of American timidity.”

## **Tillerson, McMaster Dispute Report On Paris Accord Exit, But Leave Room For Negotiation.**

Secretary of State Tillerson and National Security Adviser McMaster appeared on several of the Sunday morning political talk shows to discuss a variety of issues, and each responded to the Saturday Wall Street Journal report stating that President Trump would not withdraw the US from the Paris climate accord. Both said the report was false, with McMaster blunt and Tillerson more circumspect, though both also said that there could be room for the US to continue to participate if certain criteria are met.

Tillerson said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (9/17, Dickerson), "We are willing to work with partners in the Paris climate accord if we can construct a set of terms that we believe is fair and balanced for the American people." Tillerson added that the President is "open to finding those conditions where we can remain engaged with others on what we all agree is still a challenging issue." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/17, Krukowska) reports that Tillerson's comments came a day after the European Union said that the Trump Administration "is shifting its approach to the landmark global agreement on climate change, an assertion quickly denied by the White House." The [New York Post](#) (9/17, Schultz) also reports that Tillerson said Trump "could stay in the Paris climate accord if certain 'conditions' are met."

McMaster said on [ABC's This Week](#) (9/17) that Trump "left the door open to reentering if there can be a better deal for the United States." Trump's objection, according to McMaster, was not climate-related, but that "the agreement was not good for the environment." McMaster said if an agreement was reached that benefited US citizens, the US would stay in. The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Gearan) reports, "McMaster denied Sunday that President Trump is reconsidering his decision."

McMaster was also questioned about the Wall Street Journal on [Fox News Sunday](#) (9/17, Wallace), where, according to [Politico](#) (9/17, Meyer), McMaster said, "That's a false report." McMaster "bashed the Paris deal," saying, "It gave the worst polluters the ability to continue polluting and emitting carbon without significantly reducing those levels." [Reuters](#) (9/17, Mutikani) says McMaster "struck a similar tone" to Tillerson in the two interviews.

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/17, story 5, 2:00, Quijano), Errol Barnett reported that McMaster "disputed reports that the US is not leaving the international climate change agreement. ... The Trump Administration says it is exploring how the US can cut CO2 emissions. Chief Economic Adviser Gary Cohn will host an informal meeting Monday, ahead of the [UN General Assembly], with about a dozen senior climate and energy ministers from around the world." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17, Peker, Timiraos, Gold) also reports that Cohn will outline the Administration's emissions goals while stating that the US stance on the accord has not changed. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/17, story 6, 2:30, Llamas) also ran a clip of McMaster's remarks; Washington Post columnist Josh Rogin [tweeted](#), "McMaster calls Paris 'the worst deal for the environment' but everybody knows he argued for it."

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/17, Walters) reports, "Senior Trump administration officials on Sunday signalled a further softening of America's resolve to leave the Paris climate accord, amid signs that the issue will be discussed at the United Nations general assembly in New York this week." Both Tillerson and McMaster "indicated that the US is open to negotiations on staying in the landmark international agreement to limit mankind's role in global warming."

The [New York Daily News](#) (9/17, Silverstein) says the Administration on Sunday "continued its cryptic about-face on the Paris climate accord, with two top officials hinting President Trump is open to negotiations that would keep the U.S. in the international environmental pact." By contrast, the [The Independent \(UK\)](#) (9/17, Francisco) reports, "White House officials have sent mixed messages on whether America remains in a global climate agreement."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Richardson) reports, "The White House insisted that there has been 'no change' in US policy. Spokesperson Lindsay Walters said, "As the President has made abundantly clear, the United States is withdrawing unless we can re-enter on terms that are more favorable to our country."

[Breitbart](#) (9/17, Key) headlines its report "Tillerson: Trump Open To Staying In Paris Climate Accord, 'Under The Right Conditions.'" In a Sunday update of its original report, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17, Peker) also highlights the comments by Tillerson and McMaster, which are also covered by the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/17, Feldscher) and [The Hill](#) (9/17, Savransky).

## **Advisory Panel Recommends FAA Eliminate More Than 50 Air Safety Rules.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17, Pasztor) reports that as part of President Trump's targeting what he and aides describe as outdated and unnecessary government restrictions, the Aviation

Rulemaking Advisory Committee has delivered a report calling on the FAA to eliminate or roll back more than 50 air-safety rules. Several of the recommendations have garnered opposition from union groups, safety advocates and the families of crash victims.

## Editorial Wrap-Up

---

### New York Times.

***"Using The E.P.A. To Prop Up Big Coal."*** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/18, Board) calls EPA Administrator Pruitt's order to delay by two years "the Obama administration's tighter controls on lead, mercury, arsenic and other coal plant wastes that threaten human health" a "shocking" attempt by the Administration that "deliberately overlooks the blossoming of profitable and cleaner energy products simply because of Mr. Trump's hollow showmanship before his campaign base." The Times argues that "cheaper and abundant natural gas" was the prime driver of coal industry's decline, a trend it predicts "will continue." The Times concludes in saying that "the environmental safeguards Congress has ordered it to enforce have been crucial to the development of new technologies," but Pruitt has sullied "that history with false promises to a fading industry is irresponsible."

***"Squeeze Myanmar's Military."*** A [New York Times](#) (9/18, Board) editorial laments that the Burmese "military's vicious crackdown against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Rakhine State" makes it "tragically clear" that the nation's democratic transition was incomplete when former President Obama announced the US would lift the remaining sanctions against the military. While "there is little chance the Security Council will vote for new sanctions," the Times says, nothing prevents the US "from acting on its own." Thus, the Times concludes, the Senate should go beyond Sen. John McCain's suggestion of halting plans to expand US-Burmese military ties by reinstating sanctions "unless the carnage stops, humanitarian aid groups are allowed back into Rakhine State, United Nations investigators are permitted to do their job there and the Rohingya are restored safely to their homes as full citizens."

### Washington Post.

***"Trump Flirts With A New Age Of American Timidity."*** A [Washington Post](#) (9/17) editorial says that after having cut "refugee resettlement by more than half, compared with the Obama administration, officials close to Mr. Trump are pushing for a further draconian reduction, to levels not seen since the Cold War." If Trump backs the proposal, the Post argues, "the message to those fleeing persecution and violence would be to shelter in place – any place, as long as it's not the United States." The Post says the Trump Administration "is waging a multi-front crusade against legal as well as illegal immigration," and adds that by "rolling back refugee admissions to levels negligible when measured against the need, the administration would accelerate Washington's retreat from the global stage and inaugurate a new age of American timidity."

***"The Inexplicable Horror Of The Deaths Of Eight Elderly People In Florida."*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/17) laments the "inexplicable horror" of the deaths of eight elderly people "found in a sweltering nursing home in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma last week." The Post says the investigation into the deaths "needs to sort out the conflicting accounts of what happened to determine who...dropped the ball in protecting these people," and their must be "a thorough review of nursing-home policies and practices and state oversight."

***"Turkey Still Hasn't Owned Up To A Vicious Assault On American Soil."*** A [Washington Post](#) (9/17) editorial recalls "the violent attack on peaceful protesters by Turkish bodyguards during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Washington" four months ago, and says the incident has not triggered "protests from the State Department, not bipartisan condemnations from Congress and not the indictments of Turkish security officials on criminal charges." The Post posits, "Perhaps a threat to block certain weapon sales," as called for in a proposed amendment co-sponsored by Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Patrick J. Leahy," will be a more meaningful way to suggest there is a price to be paid for such brutality." The Post urges Congress to approve the measure, "part of a larger spending bill for the State Department that now goes to the full Senate," and President Trump to sign it.

### Wall Street Journal.

***"The Second Circuit's Insider Trading Feud."*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17) editorializes that the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in 2014 tried to create a limiting principle for insider trading, the definition of which has been legally murky. According to the Journal, the court's effort was

mitigated last month by a three-judge panel of the court, and this conflict – centering on whether “friendship” between figures in an alleged insider-trading scheme satisfies the definition of “personal benefit” under the statute – calls for a resolution by the entire 2nd Circuit.

**“California Democrats Target Tesla.”** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17) writes that California Democratic lawmakers passed legislation Friday that requires manufacturers participating in an electric car rebate program to receive permission from the state labor secretary to verify they are “fair and responsible in their treatment of workers” – a measure backed by the United Automobile Workers and that directly targets Tesla. The Journal observes the state’s Democrats showed that loyalty to organized labor takes priority over electric cars and green subsidies.

**“Reining In Mr. Sessions.”** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17) editorializes that Attorney General Sessions recently sparked bipartisan ire with the revival of a civil asset-forfeiture program that had been restricted by former Attorney General Eric Holder. According to the Journal, a bipartisan group last week countered Sessions’ move with a series of amendments to the annual appropriations package that is moving through the House. The Journal argues that the practice amounts to property being taken from individuals without due process or the determination of criminal culpability, and that it invites abuse. The House amendments would curtail the power of law enforcement officials under the program, and the Journal urges Congress to pass a separate law making these restrictions permanent, calling such a result a victory for property rights and due process.

## Big Picture

---

### Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Trump Administration To Brief Officials On Emissions Goals](#)  
[Inside Bank Of America’s Move To Ditch 1,597 Branches Across The US](#)  
[‘We’ve Been Breached’: Inside The Equifax Hack](#)  
[In Libya, Islamic State Pursues Revival In Gateway To Europe](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Amid Opioid Crisis, Insurers Restrict Pricey, Less Addictive Painkillers](#)  
[Trump Lawyers Clash Over How Much To Cooperate With Russia Inquiry](#)  
[How Violence In Myanmar Radicalized A New Generation Of Rohingya](#)  
[In Alaska’s Far-Flung Villages, Happiness Is A Cake Mix](#)  
[Facebook Navigates An Internet Fractured By Governmental Controls](#)  
[A Potent Fuel Flows To North Korea. It May Be Too Late To Halt It.](#)  
[‘The Handmaid’s Tale,’ Politics And ‘SNL’ Dominate The Emmys](#)

#### **Washington Post:**

[Fresh Warning Sent To N. Korea](#)  
[Hurricane Responses Offer Painful Lessons](#)  
[Presidency Reshapes A Key Trump Business](#)  
[In Vermont, An Experiment In Simplicity](#)  
[A Move To Dismiss A Tradition](#)

#### **Financial Times:**

[Bangladesh Restricts Rohingya Movement As Refugees Top 400,000](#)  
[US Senate Investigators Train Sights On Facebook](#)  
[Fears Of Being Left Behind Tinge Stuttgart’s Prosperity](#)  
[Pakistan Warns On US Threat To Downgrade Relations](#)

#### **Washington Times:**

[Trump’s U.N. General Assembly Debut To Assert His ‘America First’ Message](#)  
[Trump’s Speech On Terrorism Void Of ‘Islamic’ Under Pentagon Guidance](#)  
[North Korea Secretly Building Nuclear Submarine To Deploy Within 3 Years: Report](#)  
[Senate Republicans Near Votes To Replace Obamacare With State Block Grants](#)  
[Carter Page Becomes Third Figure To File Slander Lawsuit Over Democrat-Funded Russia Dossier](#)  
[Final Showdown With Islamic State Raises Worries About Civilian Casualties](#)



**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Hurricane Tracking; Hurricane Recovery-Caribbean; Hurricane Recovery-Florida; Louisiana-Racial Shootings; London Subway Bombing-Suspects; White House-Trump UN Address; St. Louis-Protest; France-American Students Attacked; Amusement Park Accident; Phone Scammer; Kevin Hart-Extortion Plot; Roadside Koala Rescue; Veteran Medical Student.

**CBS:** Hurricane Recovery-Florida; Hurricane Tracking; London Subway Bombing-Suspects; France-American Students Attacked; White House-Trump UN Address; White House-DACA Deal; Louisiana State University-Hazing Death; Amusement Park Accident; Hurricane Harvey-Mosquitoes; Vietnam War Documentary; New York City-Bird Watching.

**NBC:** London Subway Bombing-Suspects; France-American Students Attacked; White House-Trump UN Address; Hurricane Tracking; St. Louis-Protest; Netflix-Location Scout Murdered; Montana-Snow.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Hurricane Recovery – 8 minutes, 40 seconds

White House-Trump UN Address – 7 minutes, 25 seconds

London Subway Bombing – 6 minutes, 5 seconds

Hurricane Tracking – 4 minutes, 5 seconds

St. Louis-Protest – 3 minutes, 25 seconds

France-American Students Attacked – 2 minutes

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** St. Louis-Protest; Louisiana-Racial Shootings; Hurricane Tracking; Hurricane Recovery; White House-Trump UN Address.

**CBS:** Emmy Award; St. Louis-Protest; Hurricane Tracking; Louisiana-Racial Shootings; White House-Trump UN Address.

**FOX:** Hurricane Tracking; St. Louis-Protest; Louisiana-Racial Shootings.

**NPR:** Hurricane Tracking; Hurricane Recovery-Florida; White House-Trump UN Address; London Subway Bombing; France-American Students Attacked.

---

**Washington Schedule****Today's Events In Washington.****White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in the Reforming the United Nations: Management, Security, and Development meeting; participates in an expanded meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel; participates in an expanded meeting with President Emmanuel Macron of France; attends a working dinner with Latin American leaders.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Hosts Honor Flight veterans from Lafayette, Indiana; joins the President for a working dinner with Latin American leaders.

**US Senate:** 3:00 PM Senate due to vote on FY'18 NDAA – Senate convenes and resumes consideration of 'H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018', with agenda including adopting an amendment in the nature of a substitute (which passed a procedural vote by 84 votes to nine last week), voting on a motion to invoke cloture, and – if cloture is invoked – voting on final passage of the bill Location: Washington, DC  
<http://www.senate.gov/>

**US House:** 10:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee field hearing on the Manchester VAMC in New Hampshire – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee field hearing on 'An Assessment of Leadership Failures at the Manchester, NH VA Medical Center', with testimony from Deputy Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Organizational Excellence Carolyn Clancy; Department of Veterans Affairs VISN 1 Director Michael Mayo-Smith; Manchester, NH, VA Medical Center Acting Director Alfred Montoya Jr., and Pain Management Specialist William Kois; and New Hampshire State Veterans Advisory Committee Chairman David Kenney Location: New Hampshire National Guard Edward Cross Training Complex, 772 Riverwood Dr, Pembroke, NH  
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House of Representatives convenes for pro forma session \* House on recess from 15 Sep – 25 Sep Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/>

On recess until 25 September.

**Other:** 8:30 AM IMF Managing Director Lagarde speaks at Brookings – 'Transparency, anti-corruption, and sustainable development: Is progress possible?' Brookings Institution discussion



on 'new developments in how transparency, accountability, and participation initiatives can contribute to reducing corruption and achieving sustainable development'. Speakers include International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde, BHP Billiton Chief External Affairs Officer Geoff Healy, Partnership for Transparency Fund Board Director Christiaan Poortman, and Oxfam America Accountable Development Finance Director Ian Gary \* The event is co-hosted by the World Bank and International Finance Corporation, Partnership for Transparency's Anti-Corruption Forum, and Brookings Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> [#Transparency](https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst)

8:30 AM CSIS discussion on 'Taiwan's Environmental Leadership' – 'Taiwan's Environmental Leadership' Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion, on 'Taiwan's leadership in global environmental protection as well as past and prospective cooperation for environmental protection between the United States and Taiwan'. Speakers include Taiwanese Minister of Environmental Protection Lee Ying-yuan, Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States Deputy Representative James Lee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Assistant Administrator Jane Nishida, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy Senior Researcher David Ribeiro, and Center for Strategic & International Studies Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair Michael Green Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

3:00 PM EU Commissioner Moscovici speaks at Brookings on the eurozone – European Commission Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation, and Customs Pierre Moscovici speaks at the Brookings Institution on his ideas for a 'more democratic and less divergent eurozone', and arguing for 'coming window of opportunity of not more than a year to agree these reforms' Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

7:00 PM Hillary Clinton begins her 'What Happened' book tour in Washington, DC – Hillary Clinton begins her 'What Happened' book tour in Washington, DC. The book features a collection of personal essays inspired by the hundreds of quotations she has been collecting for decades, which she uses to illustrate stories from her life, up to and including her experiences in the 2016 presidential campaign. During the tour, Clinton discusses her 'journey, what's next and what's on audiences' minds' Location: Warner Theatre, 513 13th St NW, Washington, DC <http://hillaryclintonmemoir.com/> <https://twitter.com/simonschuster>

Air, Space & Cyber Conference – Air Force Association Annual Air, Space & Cyber Conference and Technology Exposition. Speakers include Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD National Harbor [www.afa.org](http://www.afa.org) [#ASC17](https://twitter.com/AirForceAssoc)

## Last Laughs

---

### Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

**Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](http://BulletinIntelligence.com), or called at (703) 483-6100.